The SPORTS PINK

Saturday, May 5, 2012

55p

Supporting LOCAL sport

Daily Echo

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SAINTS SET FOR AN OLD BOYS REUNION

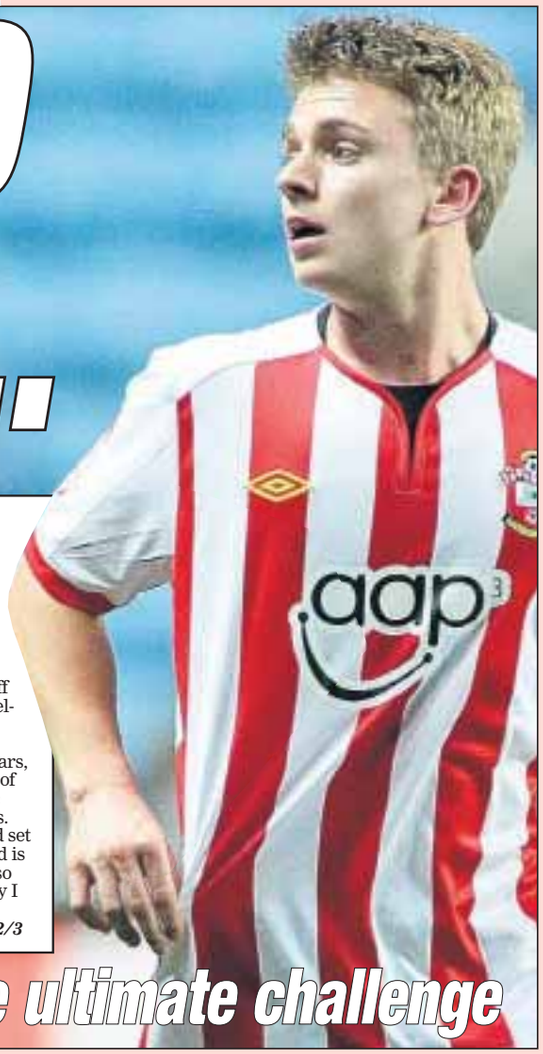
Pages 26-27

FANS' PARTY TIME

Nine pages of fan pics from the big promotion party

Pages 6-14

TESTED TO THE MAX...



SAINTS' faith in their young players will be tested to the max as they make the step up to the Premier League.

Nigel Adkins and Nicola Cortese have an ambition to see 50 per cent of the first team squad made up of home grown talent within a reasonable timeframe.

But that is going to get harder following promotion to the Premier League.

Whilst young talents such as James Ward-Prowse, Ben Reeves and Sam Hoskins have got a taste of first team action this season, Adam Lallana is the only academy player that has featured on a regular basis over the campaign.

And promotion to the Premier League makes it even tougher for the club's young guns, who have to push past established star names and potentially experienced transfer targets to prove they can compete with the best players in the world.

However, if there is one academy that might just be able to do it then it belongs to Saints.

The club has a proud history of producing young players over the years and there is a confidence amongst the coaching staff that several genuine talents are bubbling away waiting for the right time to be blooded.

As difficult as it is for a young player to make a Premier League breakthrough, the club's youngsters are buoyed by the determination to reach that 50 per cent mark.

Hoskins, pictured, who is currently on loan at Rotherham, said: "The gaffer and the coaching staff do like to bring on and develop young players at Southampton.

"I know that, in future years, they would like 50 per cent of the first team to have come through the academy ranks.

"They've got a really good set up down there – Staplewood is a fantastic place to learn – so I've got the best opportunity I could have."

● *Full story: See Pages 2/3*

Saints' youth policy to face the ultimate challenge

SAINTS

Jos Hooiveld pic special

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NON-LEAGUE

Totton into play-off final

See page 30

CRICKET

Terry thrown in at the deep end

See pages 42-43

LOCAL FOOTY FINALS: PAGES 38-39

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Premier League here we come!

Trenton Tracey, aged four, enjoyed his visit to St Mary's last weekend, and was celebrating on the pitch at the end along with thousands of other fans. His dad Neil emailed this picture to *echosport@dailyecho.co.uk*

MILLER TIME FOR

By Mike Vimpany

echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

A LATE offside flag at Aldershot last Saturday denied Saints teenager Sam Hoskins a winning Rotherham goal on his full Millers debut.

And it also took the edge off what would otherwise have been a perfect day in his fledgling professional career.

The 18-year old, on loan at Rotherham from St Mary's, had a real spring in his step when he ran onto Aldershot's pitch after watching Saints, his hometown club, clinch promotion back to the Premiership with a 4-0 win over Coventry City.

"I knew they had beaten Coventry and been promoted before the game," he beamed.

"It was a brilliant feeling and I was so delighted, because they deserve it."

Hoskins celebrated with a first half goal for Rotherham, which manager Steve Evans described as "something really special, outstanding: worthy of winning any game of football."

He picked up the ball on the right-hand side of the penalty area and cleverly chipped a pinpoint 30th minute shot over the head of goalkeeper Jamie Young and in off the base of the far upright to give Rotherham a 2-1 half-time lead.

"I didn't really have much on. I thought I would just try my luck and it went in for me," said Hoskins modestly.

"It was a good goal, though. I was pretty pleased with it."

Midway through the second half and with the score 2-2, Hoskins climbed to head what looked to be Rotherham's winner – only to have his effort ruled out.

Evans, in charge of the Millers for the fourth time since joining the Yorkshire club from Crawley at Easter, was furious at the decision – the draw ending the Millers' outside hopes making the League 2 play-offs.

But he was full of praise for Hoskins, who joined Rotherham on loan from Saints in mid-March.

"He's got the ability to produce something out of nothing. He comes alive in the box and has a great knack of being able to put the ball in the net," Evans said.

"He's sat on the bench for the past couple of games, but he knew the previous weekend that he'd be starting at Aldershot, so he had plenty of time to prepare properly.

IN ACTION: Sam Hoskins pictured playing for Saints at Coventry earlier this season.

Loan spell is the making of Hoskins

"Sam's looked really sharp in training.

"He worked hard at Aldershot as well but didn't get the service he'd have liked and was tired at the end of a game full of intensity – one between two teams still with an outside chance of a play-off place and on a really heavy pitch.

"He's a young man, 18 years of age, an exciting talent who's learning his trade in the game.

"He goes about with a smile on his face and conducts himself like a Premiership loanee."

Though it was Hoskins' first start for the Millers last weekend, it wasn't his first goal for the club.

That had come earlier this month when he netted the winner at AFC Wimbledon just two minutes after being introduced as an 81st minute substitute. But scoring goals is nothing new for the former Cantell School youngster, who originally joined Saints in 2005 as a 12 year old.

Similar to Michael Owen in stature, Hoskins played for the successful Oakwood Southampton Tyro League side before joining the Southampton staff two years later.

He was top scorer for the club's under-18 side in both 2009/10 and 2010/11, and one of six youth academy players put on professional contracts for the present campaign.

Hoskins made a good start to the season and scored in an Under-21 game against Brentford last August in front of watching manager Nigel Adkins.

He was rewarded with a place on the bench for Saints' 3-1 Carling Cup win at Swindon towards the end of that month.

Hoskins came on for Guly do Prado in that tie during stoppage time, and showed some good touches before the final whistle.

In November, and in order to get first team league experience, Hoskins joined Preston North End on an emergency one month loan alongside striker Jonathan Forte.

But, due to an injury picked up during a training session, was unable to play for the League

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Premier League here we come!

SAINTS STARLET

GET IN: Sam Hoskins nets against Hereford in the FA Youth Cup and, main pic, against Eastleigh in a pre-season friendly.

One outfit. Back at Saints, on January 7 this year, he appeared off the bench in an FA Cup tie at Coventry City, and had a hand in one of the goals which gave Saints a 2-1 win.

"I played for a good half-hour in the cup tie, so to have a relatively large chunk of first team football was really good," he recalled.

"I came on when we were 1-0 down, but we turned it round and won 2-1.

"I think the manager was pleased, but hopefully next season I can get more opportunities."

In mid-March, Hoskins joined Rotherham on loan until the end of the season and made his debut as a substitute in a 2-1 defeat at Oxford United.

Hoskins hopes that scoring against Aldershot Town – ironically, his first professional game on Hampshire soil – will push his future career in the right direction.

"I don't think you can look back on the past and I've got to look to my future now, whether that be going on loan elsewhere or if I can prove myself at Southampton, maybe get on the bench or play in a cup game.

"Hopefully if the gaffer down there (Southampton) likes what he sees, I can push on.

"I've had to adapt to playing at Rotherham: it's a different style of play to what I've been used to in the past, so it's been a good experience.

"My loan at Preston didn't go to plan because of injury, but this has been a much better one.

"I would have liked to have started more games, but I hopefully showed against Aldershot I could do it for 90 minutes and hopefully I can get another start in our final match against Northampton Town."

But Hoskins would love his future to be at Saints, particularly now they are back in the Premier League after a seven-year absence.

"The gaffer and the coaching staff do like to bring on and develop young players at Southampton and I know that, in future years, they would like 50 per cent of the first team to have come through the Academy ranks.

"They've got a really good set up down there – Staplewood is a fantastic place to learn – so I've got the best opportunity I could have."

Sam Hoskins would dearly love that opportunity to come at his hometown club …

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Record crowd as fans cheer Saints up!
See pages 6-7
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You can still get the sell-out Pink!

- THE crowd at Saints' home game with Coventry City wasn't the only sporting sell-out in the Southampton area last weekend.
- The *Daily Echo's Sports Pink* was also totally sold out in the aftermath of Saints' win with ecstatic fans flocking to buy their copy.
- If you missed out on yours, don't worry. For an electronic version of the promotion special is still available by downloading the *Sports Pink* App.

QUOTES of the week

"I've been here since the start of that project and I share the same vision as Sheikh Mansour. He has always been brilliant with me and I want to repay his faith and stay here as long as it takes to make the project a success" - **Carlos Tevez appears to have another change of heart as he declares his intention to stay at Manchester City.**

"It looks to me like it's the cheap option and the safe option... whether or not it's the right option only time will tell" - **Saints legend Matt Le Tissier gives a lukewarm reaction to the prospect of Hodgson being the next England manager.**

"Someone texted me today and said he thought I was going to score the goal, and I thought he was a lunatic!" - **Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany after his match-winning goal against United which puts the Blues in the driving seat for the title.**

"He refereed the game" - **United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was unimpressed with opposite number Roberto Mancini's behaviour during the derby. The pair were involved in a touchline spat.**

"Ferguson must have been on the whisky" - **former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher makes an impromptu appearance at City's post-match press conference.**

"I love Mancini, he is nearly as cool as me" **– Gallagher again.**

"I'm hoping everyone in England gets behind their football team, because we want to give this country the successful football team we've been waiting for since 1966" - **Roy Hodgson asks for backing after taking the England job.**

"It's sad that I won't play here again. I love playing here, but no, it's a relief as much as anything" - **Seven-time world snooker champion Stephen Hendry after announcing his retirement at the Crucible.**

"This is a special place, the support has been overwhelming and I am just grateful for that. I am okay, I am getting stronger every day. I am happy to be back. I am just happy to be able to speak to people again and walk freely" - **Fabrice Muamba attends the Premier League game between Bolton and Tottenham at the Reebok Stadium after suffering a cardiac arrest in an FA Cup tie between the two sides at White Hart Lane on March 17.**

"No I don't think it will happen now - I wouldn't think it would ever happen now. I wish Roy all the best. He has got four years and I hope he sees the four years out" - **Ex-Saints boss Harry Redknapp writes off any lingering hopes of managing England in the future.**

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BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

TUXEDO FOOTBALL: Above and below, the Pingu Boys togged up in their finest attire for the biggest day of Saints season... and the biggest party of the year.

Pingu Boys, we are here ...!

CHANCES are, if you were at St Mary's last Saturday, you might have seen a bunch of idiots dressed up in tuxedos in the front row of Block 1 in the Itchen Stand.

It may not have been that noticeable: I saw Andy Pandy, two Smurfs, two Teletubbies and an 18-stone man dressed as Wonder Woman, so 30 men in tuxedos might not be so memorable.

The Pingu Boys were formed in 2010 after the tragic death of my friend Mike Allen's brother, Paul, who died suddenly in January of that year.

One of Paul's desires for that season was to do a corporate day at St Mary's, something he'd never done before. An obvious idea was to get nine of Mike's friends to do a corporate day in Paul's honour and raise a glass to his memory.

So often when someone you love dies in tragic circumstances, it's the memories that follow that pave the way forward to recovery.

Grieving process

It's as if your head is a wall made up of good and bad memories and the grieving process consists of removing the bad memories and replacing them with good ones.

That day, against Southend on the final day of the 2009/10 season, Mike started the recovery process and had reason to smile when thinking of his brother and the times they spent at St Mary's.

Sadly that year, in October, I lost my mother after a long battle against cancer and 2010/11's final game was in honour of her.

It's fair to say that another amazing day, with amazing company at St Mary's against Walsall, marked the beginning of my road back to normality.

It gave me the impetus to start looking at family photos without feeling a real sense of sadness.

In 2012 we'd thankfully lost no one so decided to carry on the tradition and raise a glass to all Saints fans no longer with us and who have missed this whole amazing journey that Nicola and Nigel have taken us on.

Last Saturday we raised a glass to Markus Liebherr, in memory of the astonishing impact he had on all of us and our club.

Saturday was nothing short of astonishing.

The day began with breakfast at the Grand Café in Oxford Street. You know you're in for a long day when your breakfast is sponsored by Bacardi and it set the tone for a day that required a calming of the nerves.

The atmosphere at St Mary's was as good as any I've seen in my years of following the Saints, not tense or anxious, more expectant and excited.

It was probably as representative of how far we've come as a club as you're likely to see.

Years ago, 15 minutes without that important first goal would lead to a palpable tension in the air.

Not this time,.

This time the crowd were patient, yet raucous.

They knew this remarkable side wouldn't let them down.

They knew it took a gargantuan effort from West Ham to overhaul us and there was no way that Saints would fumble the baton so close to the finishing line.

Much has been made by the club of the Southampton way in terms of how we play the game.

To be truthful, you could also say that doing things the hard way is also the "Southampton way".

Was anyone surprised that promotion was left to the very last game of the season?

It's as if the footballing gods were ensuring that the good folk of Southampton didn't have ideas above their station.

You think you're the best team in this division?

Here, have a large dollop of final game nerves..

Playing the final game against Coventry pretty much bookended the season perfectly, a season that that had seen a remarkable crossover of fortunes between Saints and Pompey and seen the two clubs pass like ships in the night.

The fact that our promotion push depended on a club run by SISU Capital Limited, the company that came so close to taking over Southampton, just added to the irony.

There, but for the grace of Liebherr, went us.

It would be fair to say that I couldn't think of better fans to celebrate promotion with.

The grace and class Coventry's fans showed in staying behind and applauding our achievement was hugely impressive and many friends were made that day.

It did, or rather it should, leave us with a massive dose of humility.

Whilst having wonderful owners, a shrewd, ambitious chairman, a UEFA standard stadium, a world class academy and as good a squad as we've seen at St Mary's, we could so very easily be Coventry City.

It's that small bit of luck that should make us all feel doubly grateful for what we have, but more importantly what we didn't have.

I'll end this article with one small moment of back slapping.

It wasn't until the next day, whilst watching the game again on Sky Plus, that I actually discovered what the "Southampton Way" was.

After being interviewed by the BBC at half time, commentator Mark Bright, 63 minutes into the second half, noted that: "As the boys in the corner would say, Southampton are playing Tuxedo football."

Do Barcelona play "Tuxedo football"?

I think not.

Tuxedo football…

Now that's the Southampton way!

Paine's World

The Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column on all things football

FA's England boss choice: Is it brave or foolhardy?

BOSS: Roy Hodgson

THE Football Association has told us Roy Hodgson was the only candidate under consideration for the England manager's job. But why?

After all, we were all led to believe that Harry Redknapp, pictured right, was the red-hot favourite which was also confirmed by the bookies.

Hodgson's international pedigree may have given him the edge. Having trawled through a host of European clubs and coached at national level with UAE, Finland and Switzerland – qualifying for the 1994 World Cup and Euro 96 – he has a wealth of experience.

When I was on the South African FA's selection panel a few years ago, we needed an experienced coach and were leaning towards an Englishman.

So when Hodgson resigned as UAE manager I was given permission to approach him. During our conversation he was very courteous but felt he needed a break from international football so declined our invitation for an interview.

His time in England included an indifferent spell at Blackburn Rovers. There was no Roy of the Rovers stuff at Ewood Park in 1997, as he was sacked. But he returned to Europe before resurfacing at Fulham in 2007. During his spell at Craven Cottage he took the club to the 2008/09 Europa League final, only to lose in extra-time to Atletico Madrid.

Fulham finished a creditable seventh, their highest position to date.

His appointment as England manager would have been untenable at the start of 2011. His tenure at Liverpool was ended but he has regrouped and done a sterling job at West Brom, steering them to safety and a comfortable tenth place.

My one worry is he's best at managing sides whose expectations are purely survival and creating teams with players who know their jobs but lack the extra creativity that can make so much difference.

It has also been suggested that Hodgson was offered the job on the cheap – relatively speaking – as it could have cost £10m to buy out Redknapp's contract.

That may have frightened off the FA mandarins, still reeling from payouts to Capello and Co.

But at least the national team is back in the hands of an Englishman and what I like most Hodgson is, just that, his Englishness.

I played under a manager so proud to be English in Alf Ramsay, who insisted the players upheld his standards on and off the field.

Hopefully Hodgson's appointment will bring success to a nation whose last tournament success was 46 years ago.

The task is demanding. There are just six weeks to go until the new manager comes in, which is little time for the new manager to get his feet under the table.

He needs to pick a Euro 2012 squad within the next two weeks and oversee two friendlies, against Norway in Oslo on May 26 and a home game against Belgium a week later. Meanwhile, he has to remain with West Brom for their last two games before taking up the enormous challenge that managing England demands.

He must do all this before the group stage opener against France on June 11, followed by matches against Sweden and Ukraine in what could be the most difficult of groups.

FA Cup is still No. 1

I HAD to agree with Kenny Dalglish when he said the FA Cup is still important.

For me, winning trophies is still what the game's all about – even in an era where Champions League football dictates success and Premier League positions are so important financially.

Winning cups is put on the back burner by many top clubs. But Liverpool's poor league form means they're cup form has been overlooked.

By the time you read this they may well have completed the domestic cup double for the first time since 2001, following their Carling Cup success earlier this season.

Dalglish seems to have prioritised the cups this season. There has to be a starting point for success, perhaps the Liverpool manager feels his team is not up to challenging for the title and so is concentrating on the cups by playing strong teams in all rounds.

They have overcome strong opposition, beating Manchester United and coming from behind to beat Everton.

If Liverpool have won the FA Cup it would be fair to say they have had a successful season. After all, only three domestic competitions are up for grabs each year. But if they have lost, the management will be entitled to ask some tough questions regarding Liverpool's future under Dalglish.

Jose has the touch

THE Special One has done it again. Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid clinched the La Liga title by defeating Athletic Bilbao 3-0 on Wednesday.

Mourinho has now won four league titles in different Premier Leagues across Europe, having enjoyed similar success with FC Porto, Chelsea and Inter Milan.

He joins an exclusive club to have won league titles in four countries; Giavanni Trapattoni (Italy), Ernst Happel (Austria) and Tomislav Ivic (Croatia).

Mourinho's team has already amassed 115 goals – a Spanish record – with two games still to play.

He has decried critics who believe the Barcelona way to be the only type of football.

The 49-year-old has indicated he will remain in Spain next season, dismissing the call to return to Chelsea. More's the pity. I relish the day he returns to English football. We miss him so badly.

Premier League here we come!

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Adam Rant

This week's big talking points with **Adam Leitch**

Lower our sights

Saints fans used to success will face a shock in 2012/13

WHAT an incredible time to be a Saints fan.

The youngest generation of supporters must think this football lark is a right old bundle of joy.

You have the funds to outspend other clubs and then crush them on the pitch as a result, you win promotions every season, get to have a happy pitch invasion each year, you love the manager and the players and eventually get to see the best players in the world in front of your very eyes.

But fans of a certain age – well, anybody who has followed Saints for a period of time – will tell you this is quite remarkable, a blip on an otherwise lowly existence.

When Adam Rant was growing up it was the Premier League survival show most of the time once Chris Nicholl had departed as manager.

There were joyous scenes, but they were born from finishing fourth from bottom.

Sometimes they just came from seeing Saints actually win a game.

They came from watching the likes of Matt Le Tissier in his pomp, from supporting the underdog, from the gallows humour that came from being a Saints fan.

Total opposite

In recent years it has been the total opposite – the opposition fans who were supporting the underdog, while Saints have been the big spending giants.

But look forward to next season and it changes once more.

What has been achieved is absolutely marvellous but it's going to be a complete about turn again. Back to the future, if you will, and fans will have to adjust their expectations.

Many will concede that just staying up in the first season in the top flight will be a good achievement.

But it's one thing saying that and another happily living through it.

The thing is that Saints fans have grown accustomed to seeing their side win almost every game they have played in the league for the last three consecutive seasons.

Next season they are likely to see their side lose many of the games that they play.

That can be quite hard to adjust to.

Norwich and Swansea are held up as the great examples of what can be achieved, but as it stands they have won just 11 league games each this season.

That is not many at all over a long campaign. And when you think that is viewed as a real success, then it underlines what is to come.

Fans will be tested by it because some are not used to losing at all, others will struggle to remember this feeling from the last time Saints were at that level.

There will be a few famous days.

Saints will almost certainly beat one of the big guns – Man United, Man City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool, Tottenham – at some point.

What a day that will be.

But they will also lose to lesser lights of the division and might well get battered and concede five or more on occasions.

That will be a test of resolve and character for the fans.

This ride has been on a crest of a wave so far, but it will get markedly tougher.

Give Rick his credit

ADAM Rant would kindly request that people stop comparing Rickie Lambert to Grant Holt.

He's better than that.

The comparisons have arisen because they are both strikers who have lingered around the lower divisions for a long time – they were teammates at Rochdale once – and who suddenly got a chance in the top flight.

They are also both target men types who have reached the top flight late in their playing careers.

It's the fairytale story in many ways.

With no disrespect to Holt, Lambert has always been the better of the two.

He has that extra bit of quality.

Of course, many will disagree, and can justifiably point to the fact that Holt has scored 15 times this season, whereas Lambert could still fail in the top flight.

There is little doubt that Lambert, pictured, won't be as prolific in the elite as he has been in the Championship and League One.

But he just has that feeling of momentum which is all important.

Adam Rant maintains that Lambert's fitness record has helped him enormously, and that if he gets an injury that keeps him out for a period of time he may well never get back to what he has been.

That can be the way sport goes.

But while he's flying, this doesn't feel like the end of the journey.

St Mary's tensions

IN the interests of supporter unity, Adam Rant would like to issue a pre-emptive warning to those who have loyally followed their side through the thick and thin of the last few seasons: St Mary's will be full of glory hunters next season.

It sounds like an odd point to make, but the last time Saints had a measure of success – getting to the FA Cup final in 2003 and doing well in the Premier League – there were tensions amongst the fan base.

There were the loyal hardcore who would turn out for the rubbish matches some didn't want to see, but who at times were struggling to get tickets for more glamorous games.

If they didn't have that issue then they certainly had to listen in the ground to the ill-informed witterings of those who pitched up because they heard the side was winning or who they were playing.

It's going to happen again now.

Those who went to Hartlepool away on a Tuesday night, travelled to Carlisle or pitched up at Stockport will have to put up with people who have barely even noticed Saints since they got relegated from the Premier League but will now be clamouring to watch Man United.

Take a deep breath and remain calm.

It is frustrating, but don't let it spoil your enjoyment. Last time there was becoming a bit of an edge to it and, for some, it lessened the experience and caused a bit of a rift – which is something the team won't be able to afford next season.

Just remember, plastic fans are exactly that – and they will eventually end up on the recycling pile again.

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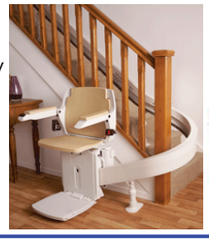

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL

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FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS

CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Wednesday, 9 May 2012
Names of winners will be published on **Saturday 12 May or Sunday 13 May 2012**

Winners

Competition number **S17**

JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS
Mr N Cutler, Christchurch, Dorset
who wins the Runner Up prize of £1,500

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

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Mr P Barbier, Southampton, Hants
Mr B Bartlett, Southampton, Hants
Mrs G Blanshard, Southampton, Hants
Mr G Curtis, Southampton, Hants
Mrs J Cutler, Southampton, Hants
Ms C Dillon, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Dunne, Fareham, Hants
Miss D Forder, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Halford, Winchester, Hants
Miss K Jones, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Martin, Southampton, Hants
Mr R McDonald, Southampton, Hants
Mr K Murtagh, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Smith, Chandlers Ford, Hants
Mrs J Steele, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Stonehill, Highcliffe, Dorset
Mr A Taylor, Chandlers Ford, Hants
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Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '& Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules or write in for a copy.

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Premier League here we come!

IT'S WHY WE LOVE 'EM!

VIEW FROM THE STANDS
By LORELEI REDDIN

LIFE'S never dull when you follow the Saints.

But the lows of relegation, dire defeats and very long and miserable journeys back home, not to mention one almighty scare of possible non existence, are always worth it in the end.

That's because some days you beat Manchester United 6-3 and do the conga around the Archers Road stand.

Some days you get a truly memorable day out with your family and friends at Wembley or the Millennium Stadium.

And every now and again, or twice in two seasons in our case, you feel the overwhelming joy of promotion.

Even more rarely, it's back to the big time.

At the risk of giving away my age, the last time that happened I was an unborn baby whose heavily pregnant mother was dancing rather too raucously around the terrace at Leyton Orient's Brisbane Road.

Nothing changes.

My overwhelming feeling on the latest joyous day last weekend was one of relief.

After the tremendous high of promotion last year, clinched during an awesome away day at Plymouth, I didn't have particularly high expectations for our first season in the Championship.

But as our little gang racked up the miles around the country, and Saints somehow remained in the top two places, I started to believe.

And that's when the worrying started.

I know promotion through the play offs is meant to be the ultimate thrill, but I couldn't face another night like Derby County when I was driving through the night and the pouring rain with a bunch of drowned rats utterly deflated from a thrilling, but ultimately devastating, game.

So it was definitely relief that flooded over me when we were cruising to victory over Coventry.

But it soon turned to jubilation.

The joy on the faces of kids clad in red and white as they danced on the centre circle and looked forward to finally seeing their beloved team in the top flight, friends lifting players aloft and a carnival atmosphere all around St Mary's.

And it didn't end there.

Strangers high-fiving in the street, flags flying, car horns tooting and the sound of Saints songs emanating from every pub in the city, just like the old days.

I loved the Football League rollercoaster, but it's great to be back.

Now I'm looking forward to a really boring, standard season in the top flight just like other teams get to experience year in year out.

But, knowing Saints, it won't be quite that straight-forward.

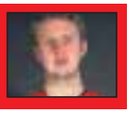
It's one of the many reasons we love them so much.

MIXED EMOTIONS: Lorelei Reddin and her sister Maxine at Wembley in 2010 for the JPT final, but Lorelei, below left, finds watching Saints nail-biting at times too!

I'll miss the Football League. Honest!

CELEBRATION TIME: Guly and Rickie Lambert after one of Saints' 85 league goals this season. It won't be that many next year.

VIEW FROM THE STANDS
By Dan Kerins



YOU know why I'm glad Saints are in the top flight again?

Because it means no more promotions – the hangover from last weekend took two days to leave me in peace, and quite frankly, I can't go through that again anytime soon.

But I have to be honest – I'm going to miss the Football League.

Everyone wants their side to be playing with the big boys. Where's the fun in being an also ran?

Don't get me wrong, we had some horrendous times – the successful Championship relegation battle, administration, the actual Championship relegation and the ignominy of being in the first round of the FA Cup, but the good times were far better.

The Johnstone's Paint Tropy final at Wembley was brilliant – it wasn't the 'glory' but rather the fun around it.

The stupidly good run at the end of 2010/11 which ended in promotion to the Championship and, of course, this season itself.

I honestly haven't enjoyed football as much as I have done over the last three seasons.

It helps that the older I get – theoretically that means more mature – the less impact supporting Saints has on my life.

That means a loss won't necessarily run the risk of me being single come Monday morning, for upsetting my better half with a foul mood and two-day sulk.

But at that's not to say the highs don't taste any less sweet.

The mood in the city last weekend was fantastic, but it lacked the same level of euphoria of the previous promotion.

Perhaps we're all getting a bit blasé about this success, eh?

It makes me glad I'm not a Manchester United fan, for example.

The unbridled success they've enjoyed mustn't taste so sweet if you can't remember – or have never experienced – the hard times.

When we were relegated in 2005, I couldn't imagine how things would get worse – how wrong I was.

But everything that has happened since then has made the current success all the sweeter.

I doubt being promoted in 2006 would have been as enjoyable as it was doing in 2012.

So while it's great to be back, it's also sad to know it's unlikely we'll be enjoying Saints in a title race like they've been this season – it was brilliant to be able to enjoy winning football week-in, week-out.

So let's the make the most of being back in the top flight – and all the pitfalls that come with it such as weird TV kick-off times and untold amounts of glitzification of the football 'experience' – but it will be a while before I manage to enjoy football as I have done since we first landed in League One.

QUOTES of the week

"They were looking for solutions for the game at the weekend and the Premier League were throwing things out there and said at one point that one alternative would be to form a guard of honour and clap Chelsea onto the pitch, and I'm thinking there is absolutely no chance of that happening" - **QPR manager Mark Hughes gives short shrift to idea of his players forming a guard of honour for Chelsea as an alternative to the pre-match handshake, which was suspended due to the legal situation involving John Terry and Anton Ferdinand.**

"The club has taken the best decision possible. He is more than capable. The players know him. He will make few changes. He will give the club and these players something that I thought I could no longer give. I could have continued but that is not what Barca would have deserved" - **Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola announces he will stand down at the end of the season and backs his assistant Tito Vilanova to be a success in the top role.**

"I thank Pep from the bottom of my heart for the many things he has given me on a professional as well as a personal level" - **Barca forward Lionel Messi, too emotional to attend Guardiola's press conference, expresses his gratitude to the departing coach on Facebook.**

"Since Wednesday night, I have received an incredible number of text messages and emails from colleagues throughout Europe. They like that we are in the final with the philosophy that we have. They feel we deserve the title. And there are many non-Bayern fans who will be keeping their fingers crossed for us" - **Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes the neutrals will be behind his side when they take on Chelsea in the Champions League final on May 19.**

"After the first 45 minutes, I thought the best thing was that were only another 45 minutes to go" - **Brighton's season-ending goalless draw at Barnsley fails to excite manager Gus Poyet.**

"My seat was in the middle and it was a bit of a chore trying to get past Peter so I just let him stay out there and pass the messages on" - **Alex McLeish denies hiding from angry fans as he allowed assistant Peter Grant to direct operations from the technical area in the 0-0 draw with West Brom.**

"I'm not looking forward to that conversation" - **First-team coach Billy McKinlay prepares to tell the ill Fulham manager Martin Jol how the team lost 4-0 at Everton.**

"The title is forgotten - if Montpellier let it slip away, they are idiots" - **Paris St Germain goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu writes off his side's Ligue 1 title hopes after defeat to Lille.**

"Roy is the only manager we have approached and we remain on course to make an appointment within the timescale we set out soon after Fabio Capello's departure" - **FA chairman David Bernstein reveals West Brom boss Roy Hodgson and not Tottenham's Harry Redknapp is their preferred candidate as England manager.**

"I don't hold grudges, I don't feel like that. There's no problem. If Roy takes the job I wish him all the best. He's a great guy" - **A gracious Redknapp insists there is no ill-feeling over not being approached by the FA.**

BOOK of the WEEK

Olympic Almanac
By Stan Greenberg

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £8.44 saving 35% on rrp

Stan Greenberg, who has produced his eighth comprehensive record of Olympic reference, was originally captivated by the 1948 London Games, an experience that led to his lifelong love of data and statistics.

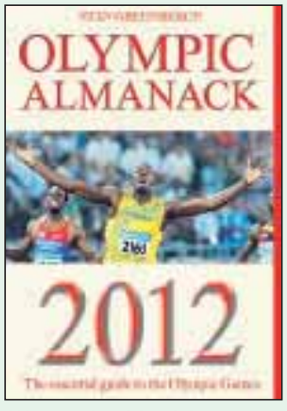
He became a founder member of the International Society of Olympic Historians, sports editor of the Guinness Book of Records and a statistician for the BBC athletics team between 1968-94.

His Olympic Almanac is a fascinating collection of Olympic facts, records and particularly snappy anecdotes which leave readers wanting more.

For example, he tells us that the 1908 Games were originally awarded to Rome, but following the eruption on Mount Vesuvius, the Italians faced financial difficulties, allowing London to step in as a late host.

Elsewhere, we learn that up until 1924, when the first Winter Olympics were held in Chamonix, skating and ice hockey had actually been a feature of the summer Games.

We're also told that after the Dutch had applied three times to host the Games, they were finally awarded the



1928 event when Johan Anker won an Olympic gold at the age of 57 years and 44 days.

Greenberg's brisk writing style enables him to provide a brief summary of every Olympics from 1896 to 2010 inside the opening 64 pages before he gets into the statistical nitty-gritty.

It's also interesting to see women's growing involvement in sport – reflected in the number of female participants at each Olympics.

Whereas the 1896 Games had 246 competitors, all of whom were men, by 2008, no fewer than 4,611 of the 10,906 competitors were female.

Any sporting event which has been in existence for more than a century is bound to have produced anomalies, controversy and great stories.

We can prepare to be inundated with tons of Olympic tat and rubbish before London's Games open on 27 July.

Sensible folk will, however, have bought a copy of Stan Greenberg's Olympic Almanac well beforehand because they'll need little else to enjoy this year's event.

TOOLSTATION

Premier League here we come!

SAINTS fans welcomed promotion back to the Premier League by suggesting a statue of Markus Liebherr be erected at St Mary's.

Supporters having been having their say on that – and all the other big issues at Saints – on the *Echo* website *dailyecho.co.uk*

Here are a selection of this week's comments from the many hundreds.

Log on now to join the debates ...

WE OWE YOU SO MUCH: A message at St Mary's last week.

Said it before and I'll say it again, time for another statue at the ground. If the board got off their bums I'm sure it could be in place ready to be unveiled at the first home premiership game. A fitting tribute to the man who saved our club."

saintandy11

Wow, what a season and what a fantastic way to end it yesterday,the city was buzzing, first time on the hallowed turf. Need a statue of Markus in place for the start of next season. Think we need a bigger ground as every game will be a sell out. Let's build now ready for August.

RNsaint

I agree with the ideas for a suitable memorial/tribute at St Mary's for Markus, but I guess that's up to the family and how they feel. Perhaps it needs more time to elapse before it seems appropriate. But as was very clear, even amid all that excitement and celebration, he was very far from forgotten by the fans and I have no doubt it will stay that way.

Confucious

Pretty sure that Markus wished that nothing was put in place in terms of statue or renaming of stands.

All Saints fans would like it but cannot see it happening, he was quite a humble unassuming man by all accounts.

Thorshammer

Saints have walked into the Premier League, debt free and with £90m on the way.

Nicola said that Saints must be self financing. Now they are. Which falls in line with the new Premier regs coming in soon.

He has contacts in several European clubs and now Saints are Premier League, players will want to come.

Does anyone think we may go back for Rodriguez now and maybe Rhodes of Huddersfield?

They are both destined for the big time and both young.

milton road

No thanks, no reason why we should settle for 'maybe make it' players, why not go for some big guns to bolster the six Premier standard players we already have. Really need to realise there's no rules saying we can't now aim for Europe. COYR the future's bright it's red and white."

Likewatchingbrazil

I hope that Saints will look to the Championship for the majority of their new signings.

There are many individual British-born Premiership standard players currently playing in the Championship, edged out by the fashion for the 'exotic' and unable to truly shine because the are in Championship-standard sides, the kind of player that a good scout like the legendary Peter Taylor could sniff out and make part of a team.

But Saints should also seek one or two players of great experience, possibly nearing the end of their careers.

Gojam

Who really cares if we didn't finish top. Brighton did when in league 1 and a fat lot of good it did them in the champioship.

truelysaints

Let's do a Norwich and Swansea and go for good quality team players, not mercenary players that hop from a relegated team to a promoted one.If we bring in 'never made it' players like QPR did, who get paid stupid money just because they come from a Premier club, as opposed to getting paid for what they actually achieve. COYR

Boilerman

Monday morning here, feeling slightly fuzzy around the edges, but with a great happy feeling inside!

We really are Premier League! It wasn't a dream then, sitting up until 2.30am watching a stop/start internet link of events at SMS on a 17" screen, drinking champagne!

Soooo happy, thank you Markus! You gave us back our club and the best three seasons I can remember. It's been fantastic so far, long may it continue in the Premier League.

Who knows what we will do next season? After all, I don't remember too many people on here last June/July predicting a top two finish?

rob the saint in NZ

I am sure we will do well in the Premiership. Back in 1978 we finished mid table and went to Wembley and one of the my favourite players scored, David Peach, one of the best left backs we ever had. Played 21 times for England under 21s nearly got into the England team. He was

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAINTS – LOG ONTO dailyecho.co.uk

Premier League here we come!

MARKUS TRIBUTE

SAVIOUR: Markus Liebherr.

one of Big Mac's best signings.

We will need at least six new players, including a good second keeper. More pace in midfield and someone as good back up for Lambo too.

Dickson, Holmes, and Forte will be out the door soon, to be followed by Jaidi. I also don't rate Seabourne. We will use Nicola's contacts in Europe to bring in some more recruits.

Ashley Charles Pragnell

Another bright spot, the sheer number of nippers supporting Southampton, we are at last getting the fan base back that the final years at the tiny Dell cost us,

Wishful thinking but I would love Nigel to stay and finish the job, said job being to let us become the club the south requires....top 7...in football, results and support...that is a legacy.

warrens 76

Finally sobered up, fantastic day on Saturday, and what a brilliant night in Shirley High Street – even the rain couldn't dampen my spirits.

Only three years into the five year plan. I can't wait for what else there is to come, watch out Europe, The Saints are about to march right in.

Gossie

I am still buzzing. I too felt very emotional Saturday. It's good to live opposite a Premiership training ground again. I did notice it was very quiet Sunday, I expect there were a few sore heads. I know there was one here.

Marchwood dog man

This is Roy Of The Rovers, one of the greatest stories in modern day football. A story to give other clubs hope

In NC we have a fantastic no nonsense chairman, who believes utterly in this club.

The spirit of Markus Liebber lives on in all we have achieved and will achieve. For he had a dream and he gave it to us.

Milton Road

The guys who have got us two promotions deserve the promise of being given a chance to impress. How could anyone know if they could up their game if they're not given a chance?

Having said that, we can't go on without another Lambert. It's the only position where there isn't a satisfactory Plan B, so I think another target man to share the role is a priority.

derbydog

Can't see the point of going after Joe Cole – his wages would be prohibitively high and Liverpool's gamble on him failed. I'd go for Jutkiewicz as cover for Lambert.

TurnerChannonMcCalliogStokes

Decent young keeper to fill Davis' boots when he gets too old, a right back and a decent right winger, maybe an attacking midfielder, Hammond and Schneiderlin aren't as good as Jack Cork so an attacking midfielder needed!

SaintsJosh

We need a bit of pace on the wings so if Blackpool don't go up we should try for Tom Ince and Matt Phillips. I think we need another centre back as well, if Jos or Fonte get injured we will struggle.

Vordhosbn

I'd like to see a fast winger, De Ridder has the speed but doesn't seem to tick all the boxes, though with a good pre-season that may well change.

I also feel we need someone with a bit more fire in their belly for the engine room, I'm not sure Hammond will be upto the standard, and finally, cover for Ricky.

Tad and Billy complement him well couldn't lead the line if Ricky was injured.

Landdo

Sports Quiz

1 When did Manchester City last win the league title?
2 Who is the only person to defeat Rafael Nadal at the French Open?
3 Huddersfield Giants have reached the quarter-finals of the Carnegie Challenge Cup after beating Swinton. Who defeated them 25-16 in the final of the competition in 2009?
4 Who did Floyd Mayweather Jr defeat to win his first world title in 1998?
5 Scottish cyclist David Millar was born in which country?
6 Who was England's manager at the 1982 football World Cup?
7 Former F1 driver Ricardo Zonta hails from which country?
8 Who was the first man to win snooker's World Championship following the tournament's move to Sheffield's Crucible Theatre in 1977?
9 Which two sides were relegated from LV= County Championship Division One in 2011?
10 Amberleigh House won the Grand National in which year?
11 Which three national teams has Roy Hodgson managed?
12 Who captains South Africa in limited overs cricket?
13 Which Super League club did Dwain Chambers go on trial with during his attempted switch to rugby league?
14 Ronnie O'Sullivan is the most recent English winner of snooker's World Championship, which year was that?
15 Metta World Peace, currently suspended from the NBA play-offs for elbowing, plays for which franchise?
16 Which of the following players is not in the West Indies Test squad for the tour of England - Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels and Shannon Gabriel.
17 How many trophies has Pep Guardiola won as Barcelona boss?
18 Eden Hazard plays for which Ligue 1 club?
19 Which sides are due to contest the Heineken Cup final?
20 Bruno Senna races for which Formula One team?
21 Emmanuel Adebayor first arrived in English football when he joined Arsenal from which club in January 2006?
22 Who is top of the ICC's rankings for Test batsmen?
23 At which English ground will the 2013 Rugby League World Cup final be played?
24 Lionel Messi's 68th goal of the season for Barcelona broke whose record for the most goals in a single top-flight European campaign?
25 Earlier this week, the NBA's New Jersey Nets completed a move to which US city, changing their name in the process?
26 Against which country did Sol Campbell score his only England goal?
27 In which country was Germany striker Lukas Podolski born?
28 How many caps did Mike Catt win for England: 55, 65 or 75?
29 William Fox-Pitt represents Britain at which sport?
30 For which Formula One team does Romain Grosjean drive?

ANSWERS

1 1968; 2 Robin Soderling; 3 Warrington; 4 Genaro Hernandez; 5 Malta; 6 Ron Greenwood; 7 Brazil; 8 John Spencer; 9 Yorkshire and Hampshire; 10 2004; 11 Switzerland, United Arab Emirates & Finland; 12 Hashim Amla; 13 Castleford Tigers; 14 2008; 15 Los Angeles Lakers; 16 Andre Russell; 17 13; 18 Lille; 19 Leinster and Ulster; 20 Williams; 21 Monaco; 22 Shivnarine Chanderpaul; 23 Old Trafford; 24 Gerd Muller; 25 Brooklyn; 26 Sweden; 27 Poland; 28 75; 29 Equestrian; 30 Lotus.

DEBATE THE BIG SAINTS ISSUES – LOG ONTO dailyecho.co.uk

ATHLETIC Bilbao take on Atletico Madrid in what promises to be an exciting Europa League final in Bucharest next Wednesday.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at four of the best finals in the competition under its former guise as the UEFA Cup.

1981: Ipswich 5 AZ Alkmaar 4 (on aggregate)

In the days when the final was played over two legs, Sir Bobby Robson's Ipswich looked to have done all required of them in the first leg at Portman Road, where they ran out 3-0 winners thanks to goals from John Wark, Frans Thijssen and Paul Mariner.

Thijssen made it 4-0 on aggregate when he opened the scoring in the return leg before the Dutch team hit back through Johnny Metgod and Kurt Welzl.

Wark made it 2-2 before goals from Pier Tol and Jos Jonker ensured that the Tractor Boys had to endure a nervous final 20 minutes before lifting their first European trophy.

1998, Paris: Inter Milan 3 Lazio 0

Inter put in a brutal masterclass of solid defending and clinical finishing as they ran out convincing winners over a Lazio team blessed with the likes of a young Alessandro Nesta, plus Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Ivan Zamorano set the Nerazzurri on their way with a fifth-minute strike before Javier Zanetti hit the sweetest of half-volleys that flew in off the crossbar.

Sven-Goran Eriksson then saw his dreams of lifting the trophy dashed when Ronaldo burst through and sent keeper Luca Marchegiani the wrong way with a step-over before slotting home into an empty net to complete the rout.

2001, Dortmund: Liverpool 5 Alaves 4 (after extra-time)

The match that brought Liverpool their third trophy of the season.

The first half ended with Gerard Houllier's men 3-1 up thanks to goals from Markus Babbel, Steven Gerrard, pictured, and Gary McAllister (penalty), with Ivan Alonso replying for the Spaniards.

Javi Moreno's double brought Alaves level before sub Robbie Fowler put Liverpool 4-3 ahead.

With less than two minutes remaining, however, poor defending allowed Jordi Cruyff to nod home an equaliser.

Alaves resorted to bully-boy tactics, with two of their team sent off in extra-time.

The numerical advantage paid off three minutes before the end as Delfi Geli flicked McAllister's cross into his own net to give the Merseysiders the Golden Goal they needed for victory.

2003, Seville: Porto 3 Celtic 2 (after extra-time)

Martin O'Neill's training top may not have matched the classy suit his counterpart Jose Mourinho was wearing in the Estadio Olimpico, but the Ulsterman's Celtic team matched Porto almost all the way in Andalucia.

Derlei and Dmitri Alenitchev had put the Dragons up on two occasions, but Henrik Larsson hit back each time with powerful headers to set up a tense extra-time period.

Bobo Balde's reckless challenge earned him a red card and Porto made the numerical advantage pay, with Derlei grabbing his second goal five minutes before the end to clinch Mourinho's first European trophy.

Premier League here we come!

BEST OF TIMES ...

Staffordshire University's Stuart Court, a Sports PR and Journalism student, was at St Mary's last week. Here is his feature on Saints' promotion day ...

IT was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

That's a somewhat famous quote from the Charles Dickens' novel 'A Tale of Two Cities', which was published over 150 years ago.

A story set in London and Paris, it was one which depicted the people living as peasants being demoralized by the higher class in two of Europe's biggest cities.

While Dickens dealt with the French revolution, around 150 years later two English cities tried to deal with the revolution afoot in English football.

Coventry, once the leaders of a thriving motor industry in England and Europe, and Southampton – a town most often affiliated with the infamous voyage of the resplendent Titanic 100 years ago – were mainstays in the top flight in the new-born Premier League.

It was the best of times as they fought against the aristocrats of the Premier League for the final years in the last millennia in an almost Dickensian sense.

Following years of mismanagement which hindered both at the turn of the century, and saw their fight against the elite of English football end in 2001 (Coventry) and 2005 (Southampton), their almost twin existence continued as they faced the worst of times head on.

But in 2012, they cross paths where the landscape for both teams is a culmination of a season of darkness and for one a season of light.

The almost simultaneous period of belief and incredulity felt differently by both clubs began in 2007 as they became the apple of the eye of a London-based hedge fund SISU.

Coventry 'won' that battle; but more on them later.

At St Mary's last weekend, just under a week after the depiction of all that is British was annually celebrated on St George's Day, Saints hosted the conclusion of this tale of two cities.

Southampton, three years on from their own saving grace of a takeover by the late Swiss-billionaire Markus Liebherr, are on the verge of a return to the Premier League and the highest class of the country's game once more

Coventry, meanwhile, is a club coming to terms with facing up to playing third-fiddle to the game's elite for the first time in 48 years.

When they meet on a wet Saturday lunchtime to bid adieu to their seasons, they sit on polar sides of the spectrum on and off the field.

Southampton, following a promotion from League 1 a year prior, had put the Championship to the sword and sit on the verge of back-to-back promotions in a style which seems in vogue with Norwich doing similar the year before. It's a remarkable turnaround which even Mr Dickens himself would have struggled to make up.

It's one which has caught some Saints fans by surprise.

One such fan, Craig Watts, who has followed the club for over 40 years, said that Nicola Cortese, the club's executive chairman, was the main protagonist in the turnaround.

Mr Watts, left, said: "The takeover obviously was the turning point.

"Our chairman, Nicola Cortese, then made the managerial appointment of Alan Pardew who, although he didn't get us promoted, signed most of the players that have moved us forward.

"Had he not signed Rickie Lambert, would we have got the goals?"

Cortese, an Italian banker, was made executive chairman by the late Markus Liebherr, the Swiss billionaire who bought the club out of administration in 2009 and gave the 44-year old the role to be the board's face of the club.

Since Liebherr took over, the club almost immediately saw success with a Johnstone's Paint Trophy win in his first season.

Just six months after lifting the trophy, Pardew was sacked by Cortese amid reports of conflict between the pair and it came less than three weeks after the death of Liebherr.

Pardew's dismissal left Watts a bit worried that it was a case of 'same old Southampton' after a brief period of success and stability.

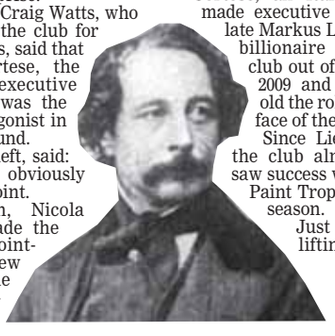
"We all thought 'here we go again' but Nigel Adkins has been amazing."

Adkins, a physio turned manager at Scunthorpe, was brought in two weeks later as manager and the following May, Watts was at St Mary's to see Adkins and the team celebrate their return to the Championship.

Ahead of their promotion, Watts was a bit sceptical as to what they could achieve.

"This season has suprised me. I thought we would challenge for a play off place at best, but never believed we could be in the top two all season.

ALL SMILES: Saints celebrate a goal against Coventry, above, and salute the fans, below, from the directors' box after the final whistle.



CHARLES DICKENS

THE PINK - BEST FOR SAINTS COVERAGE ALL YEAR ROUND

Premier League here we come!

WORST OF TIMES

MEN AND BOYS: Coventry kids Jordan Willis, top left, Will Roberts, above right, and Gail Bigirimana, right.

"Now that we have stayed there, everyone points to what Norwich did last year.

"Maybe I should have been more confident, but being a Saints fan that's been hard over the years."

It's been a season where Watts and every other Southampton fan has seen a remarkable evolution of a squad, put together in League 1, that has been in the promotion mix from day one.

Led by the core of defender Jose Fonte, midfielder Adam Lallana and top-scorer Rickie Lambert – a trio Watts labels as the outstanding players this season – the rise has been remarkable.

One hundred and fifty miles up the A34, however, you find Coventry, a club at the other side of the spectrum and teetering on the brink of possibly more than just relegation. Martin Warren, 26, a Coventry resident his whole life, has been going to watch his local team for over 20 years.

For him, the blame for the precarious position the Sky Blues find themselves is at the door of one group – the club's owners.

Warren commented: "SISU are to blame, 100 per cent.

"At the end of the day, if you let go of key players over the summer (Marlon King, Kieren Westwood) and then decide not to replace them properly, then you get what you arguably deserve."

SISU bought the club in 2007, when City were in an eerily similar situation to where they are now.

There followed a couple of years where the club saw players like Scott Dann, Aron Gunarsson and current Southampton left-back Danny Fox come and go.

The tide of support, however, disappeared in the last 18 months as the big-names of a squad were sold off like the club was almost ran by a Dickensian market trader.

Warren, a season ticket holder at the grandeur of the Ricoh Arena, has sat by and watched on as City have fought a losing battle on the pitch.

His views are shared by most Coventry fans. One other I spoke to before the game against Southampton was Georgina Hitchcox, another season-ticket holder, who sees some of the blame coming down also on the senior players in the squad.

She said: "It has been extremely frustrating being a City fan this season.

"Watching young players progress and develop over the season is always nice to see, but the experienced players next to them let the team down and didn't shine through."

That may be a harsh stance to some, but the teamsheet on the final day is almost the definition of what both fans stated has been the major snag in City's season.

Academy products Gael Bigirimana, Jordan Clarke and Jordan Willis started with club apprentices Will Roberts and Joe Henderson on the bench.

The latter only got his contract 24 hours ahead of the game.

It was a teamsheet which was familiar in its unfamiliarity for both Warren and Hitchcox and where Southampton fans, like Watts, were edgy and cynical ahead of the game.

An edginess shared by another Saints fan, Maddy Andrews, above left.

Andrews, a Southampton fan through her family's roots, said before the game: "I'm surprised that we let ourselves slip in the last few games, and I'll be gutted if West Ham beat us to promotion.

"We deserve to be promoted.

Despite the conditions being miserable, a buzz around the ground was palpable; a St Mary's record crowd of over 32,000 had turned out, aided by 1,900 from the Midlands.

Coventry's ease in passing was something not befitting their position as they had the better of the early stages, but soon the game was very much on script for those of a red and white disposition as a 15th minute strike was deflected in by Billy Sharp to calm the nerves.

Subsequent efforts from Fonte, Lallana and defender Jos Hooiveld allowed Saints fans to uncork the champagne.

The army of Coventry fans trudged back home after 90 minutes of non-stop singing throughout, matching their joyous opposing supporters in the chanting stakes.

They now face up to a summer of discontent as the anger at SISU evolves to a fever pitch following a season which Martin says he is relieved is over.

He knows the club needs two things over the summer: a restructuring and support given to manager Andy Thorn as City look to bounce-back.

As for Southampton, they are still celebrating as the Cortese/Liebherr era has been an unprecedented success.

The Southampton fans must be asking just one thing.

Please Sir, I want some more ...

ROY Hodgson was this week named as the new England manager.

The former West Brom boss takes over from Fabio Capello, who resigned as national manager in February.

Capello received a great deal of criticism during his four-year spell in charge.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things Hodgson must do to improve the England team.

UNITY

With the start of Euro 2012 just over a month away, Hodgson needs to immediately ensure the England side have a real sense of togetherness.

At the 2010 World Cup, John Terry led a scathing attack on team spirit during a routine press conference leading to 'clear the air' talks with England management.

Hodgson needs to ensure there is harmony in his squad following the fall-out of Capello's departure.

STRONG LEADERSHIP

Hodgson has to use his international experience to select a strong captain for the European Championships and finally put an end the controversy surrounding the armband.

With John Terry's yo-yo spell in possession now seemingly over, questions remain over who his permanent successor will be. Scott Parker led the side out last time out, but it remains to be seen if he would be Hodgson's man.

MENTALITY

One of the qualities cited in Harry Redknapp – previously the favourite for the job – was his motivational ability and his man-management skills. With the national team constantly under the microscope, Capello's players often looked weighed down by expectation. Hodgson, pictured, would need to find a way to make them embrace playing for their country again.

YOUTH

England have not won any international honours for 46 years and Hodgson needs to inject some freshness into an ageing squad – something Capello realised before his demise.

Arguably only Joe Hart, Wayne Rooney, Steven Gerrard and Ashley Cole are players of the highest class, and Hodgson has to be bold and look toward the future.

Working alongside England Under-21 coach Stuart Pearce would no doubt help this process, but Hodgson would have to pick a Euro 2012 squad that is not entirely conservative.

DISCIPLINE

Wayne Rooney will miss England's first two Euro 2012 games against France and Sweden after he was sent off for kicking Miodrag Dzudovic during a 2-2 draw with Montenegro.

The Manchester United striker's absence could prove to be crucial during the tournament following the unnecessary sending off.

While building the team's confidence, Hodgson would also need to work on their discipline to try to avoid similar incidents in the future.

CONTACT US - EMAIL: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk CALL: 023 8042 4515

Premier League here we come!

HOOIVELD JOS TH

SEPTEMBER 10: Hooiveld makes his first Saints start in the 3-2 home win over Nottingham Forest, above.

SEPTEMBER 21: Hooiveld heads his first Saints goal, in a Carling Cup win over Preston.

WE'RE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE!

NOVEMBER 1: Hooiveld is all smiles after scoring in Saints' 2-1 home victory over Peterborough.

FEBRUARY 14: Hooiveld pounces to level at West Ham.

APRIL 17: Hooiveld settles any nerves on a crucial night for Saints with an early header at Peterborough, above and right, paving the way for Saints' 3-1 success at London Road.

HE'S bee stand-ou since Glasgo August

Dutch Hooive establi the ce but a some And there as that it a clin la

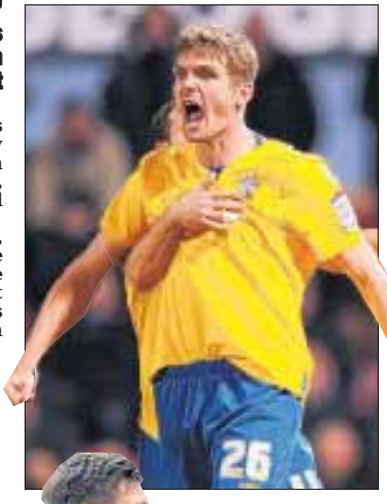
Premier League here we come!

JOB FOR SAINTS

SEPTEMBER 21: Hooiveld, left, is congratulated after his goal against Preston.
OCTOBER 18: Hooiveld, above, heads Saints' winner at home to West Ham and, right, celebrates.

n one of Saints' ut performers arriving from w Celtic last .

nman Jos eld has not only ished himself in ntre of defence, lso contributed vital goals.
l it should, fore, have come little surprise Hooiveld was at gain as Saints ched promotion st weekend.



FEBRUARY 14: Hooiveld, left, celebrates his goal at West Ham.
FEBRUARY 18: Hooiveld, above, scores again – this time in the rout of Derby at St Mary's.

MARCH 20: Hooiveld, above, celebrates his goal at Hull with fellow defender Jose Fonte.

APRIL 28: Hooiveld celebrates his goal against Coventry, left, and is hoisted aloft when fans invade the pitch.

FOLLOWING the sacking of Fiorentina coach Delio Rossi this week for an attack on his own player, Adem Ljajic, *the Sports Pink* looks back at five other managerial tantrums that have made the headlines.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON AND DAVID BECKHAM (Manchester United v Arsenal, February 15 2003)

Probably the most famous of all managerial tantrums. Manchester United boss Ferguson kicked up so much of a fuss after an FA Cup defeat to Arsenal, he left prize midfielder Beckham with a nasty gash above his left eye.

Beckham was substituted after he had limped off with a leg injury during the match at Old Trafford in which United eventually lost 2-0.

Post-match, Ferguson was said to have been so livid in the dressing room he kicked out at a discarded football boot that 'inadvertently' flew up and hit Beckham in the face.

PHIL BROWN AND HULL SQUAD (Manchester City v Hull City, December 26 2008)

Trailing 4-0 at half-time and playing far from their best, Hull manager Brown refused to let his players go into the dressing room for the break in their game with Manchester City at the City of Manchester Stadium and opted to give his team talk on the pitch.

Brown sat his players in circle formation on the turf just in front of the travelling support before visibly shouting and finger wagging at various members of his squad.

In the corresponding fixture the following season, Jimmy Bullard hit a second-half penalty to earn a 1-1 draw and imitated Brown's actions for his goal celebration, leading the Hull boss to call it a 'fantastically timed comical moment'.

TONY PULIS AND JAMES BEATTIE (Arsenal v Stoke City, December 5 2009)

Pulis allegedly came to blows with ex-Saints striker Beattie in the Emirates Stadium dressing room after a 2-0 defeat to Arsenal.

Beattie had been a key organiser of the club's Christmas party that was due to be held in London the day after the game, but Pulis' last-minute decision to schedule a training session meant a direct conflict with the party arrangements which brought the two to loggerheads.

Pulis reportedly failed to back down and witnesses claim he initiated the first move by headbutting Beattie.

The striker reacted to defend himself in what turned into a scrap before the pair were broken up by players and staff.

Beattie fell out of favour and was transferred to Rangers in the summer of 2010.

JOSE MOURINHO AND TITO VILANOVA (Barcelona v Real Madrid, August 17 2011)

'The Special One' hit the headlines even before the Spanish La Liga season had begun when he attacked Barcelona assistant manager Tito Vilanova on the pitch after his Real Madrid side lost in the Spanish Super Cup.

Mourinho appeared to thrust a finger into the eye of Vilanova in the ensuing post-match bust-up. Vilanova moved to defend himself by slapping Mourinho as part of a wide-scale on-field brawl.

PAOLO DI CANIO AND LEON CLARKE (Swindon v Saints, August 30 2011)

Di Canio had a bust-up with striker Clarke in only his seventh game as a manager.

Swindon had lost their League Cup tie 3-1 at The County Ground and Clarke became involved in a heated on-field discussion with the club fitness coach.

Wanting to keep things under wraps, Di Canio tried to usher Clarke down the tunnel, but when the striker resisted, the two became engulfed in a full blown argument that exploded into a physical melee in the tunnel. It proved to be Clarke's last action in a Swindon shirt.

Premier League here we come!

SAINTS FACE THE

SAINTS' latest promotion will see them face a succession of their former stars next season.

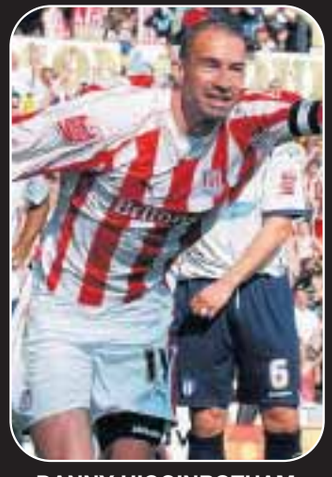
Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at how the ex-St Mary's stars are getting on in the top flight.

THEO WALCOTT

ALEX CHAMBERLAIN

RORY DELAP

RICARDO FULLER



DANNY HIGGINBOTHAM

PETER CROUCH

Theo Walcott

Still only 23, Walcott has – possibly surprisingly to some – made 219 Arsenal appearances in all competitions.

Of those, 78 have been off the bench since joining the Gunners in January 2006.

Walcott – Saints' youngest ever first team player – has scored 11 goals this season, including three in his last four Premier League outings.

He is currently out with a hamstring injury, but should be fit for the European Championships.

Alex Chamberlain

Like Walcott, he made his Saints debut aged just 16.

And like Walcott, he left Saints as a teenager to sign for Arsenal – in his case for £12m after helping Nigel Adkins' side win promotion from League 1 last season.

Scored on his Champions League and Carling Cup debuts for the Gunners this term, while his only Premier goals in five starts plus eight off the bench were a double strike in a 7-1 win against Blackburn in February.

Has been talked about as an outsider for England's Euro 2012 squad.

Rory Delap

Now 35, he has remained a regular in Stoke's fourth Premier League campaign in 2011/12.

Saints' record signing – he cost £4.1m from Derby in 2001 – has made numerous headlines in recent years regarding his sensational long throw-ins.

This week he signed a new one-year contract at The Britannia Stadium.

Ricardo Fuller

Saints' top scorer in their first season after suffering Premier League relegation – he scored just nine goals in 2005/06 – is out of contract at Stoke this summer.

The 32-year-old has made just one top flight start this season, and was sent off after only 25 minutes for violent conduct at Chelsea last month.

Has also made ten sub appearances this term, the latest coming in this week's 1-1 home draw with Everton.

Kenwyne Jones

The striker signed for a then Stoke club record £8m from Sunderland in 2010 – £2m more than the Black Cats paid for him from Saints in August 2007 – has only scored once in the Premier League this term (from nine starts and 10 sub outings), and that was last August.

Also has two Europa League strikes and one in the Carling Cup this season.

Danny Higginbotham

The 33-year-old defender has only played in two Premier League games for Stoke this season and spent a short spell on loan at Nottingham Forest. Is contracted to the Potters until the end of next season.

Peter Crouch

The fifth ex-Saint in Stoke's squad has scored 14 goals this season after becoming the club's record signing at £10m from Tottenham last August.

Has 10 Premier League goals – double the number of Stoke's second top scorer, Jonathan Walters.

Saints' top scorer in their 2004/05 relegation season has now been involved in transfers worth over £43m in his career.

The 31-year-old has scored for six different clubs in the Premier – Aston Villa, Saints, Liverpool, Pompey, Tottenham and Stoke.

Gareth Bale

Made his Saints debut aged 16 towards the end of the 2005/06 season under George Burley.

Was sold to Tottenham in May 2007 after Saints had lost in the play-off semi-finals to Derby.

After a slow start at White Hart Lane, Bale has blossomed in the last 18 months, springing to world fame with two sensational Champions League performances against Inter last season, including a hat-trick at The San Siro.

Now rated in the £50m plus bracket and enjoying his best ever season in terms of goals – having struck 15 times this term, three more than in 2010/11.

Chris Baird

Followed Bale out of St Mary's in the summer of 2007, joining Fulham for just over £3m. Has made 87 Premier League starts in five seasons for the Cottagers, plus 19 as a sub.

Now 30, the defender who made a shock appearance for Saints in the 2003 FA Cup final has been a regular this term.

Wayne Bridge

Obviously has no future under Roberto Mancini at Manchester City, having not played a league game for the

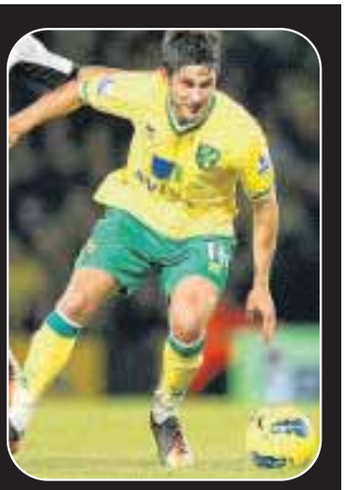
THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO - BEST FOR SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

Premier League here we come!

OLD BOYS' CLUB

GARETH BALE

CHRIS BAIRD



ANDREW SURMAN

NATHAN DYER

KEVIN DAVIES

ALAN PARDEW

club since December 2010.

His only league games since have been loan spells at West Ham in 2010/11 and Sunderland this season. Now 31, the Winchester-born defender is still under contract at the Etihad Stadium until the summer of 2013.

Andrew Surman

The home-grown ex-Saints star has scored five goals for Norwich this term, the latest coming in the recent 6-1 home thrashing by Manchester City.

Left Saints when they were in administration in the summer of 2009 to join Wolves, but left after only a season for Norwich.

Surman, now 25, then helped them win promotion from the Championship in his first season.

Nathan Dyer

Initially left Saints for Swansea in a loan deal in January 2009, the move was made permanent later that year.

Has been one of the stars of Swans' impressive debut Premier League season, scoring five league goals from his wing role – the latest in last weekend's remarkable 4-4 home draw with relegated Wolves.

Gary Monk

Now 33, the defender has enjoyed a sensational time at Swansea.

Having left Saints for Barnsley in February 2004, Monk joined the Swans a few months later when they were in League 2.

Has helped them win three promotions since and has made 15 Premier League appearances this term – taking his overall Swans league total over 200.

Fitz Hall

The 31-year-old defender only made 11 Premier League appearances for Saints before he joined Crystal Palace for £1.5m in the summer of 2004.

After being relegated for Palace along with Saints a year later, Hall moved onto Wigan for £3m before joining QPR in January 2008 for £700,000.

Has been at Loftus Road ever since, making 14 top flight appearances this term.

Kevin Davies

Has made over 300 Premier League appearances for Bolton and scored 64 league goals for them after signing on a free transfer in the summer of 2003 after Gordon Strachan released him.

Davies has even won a full England cap in that time, though he is now 35 and has just five top flight goals to his name this term – including two against Sunderland last weekend.

His current Bolton deal expires this summer.

Mike Williamson

The 28-year-old defender did not make a single first team appearance in three and a half years at Saints, before being released in May 2005 and joining Wycombe.

Portsmouth paid Watford £3m for him in September 2009, but he never played a league game for them either prior to moving to Newcastle the following January.

Leon Best

Is very much behind the likes of Demba Ba and Papiss Demba Cisse in the Newcastle strike order.

But the Republic of Ireland international, who left Saints in the summer of 2007 to join Coventry, has scored four goals in 16 top flight starts this term, plus two off the bench.

Danny Guthrie

A third ex-Saint in Alan Pardew's Newcastle squad, the midfielder – who was on loan to Saints in 2006/07 from Liverpool – has appeared in 16 Premier League games this season.

And two former Saints managers are also in the Premier League ...

Harry Redknapp

Overlooked for the England job this week, when most pundits expected the Tottenham boss to be named as Fabio Capello's replacement.

His star has risen considerably following his dismal period at St Mary's, which included relegation from the Premier League in 2004/05.

Led Pompey to the FA Cup in 2008 before decamping to White Hart Lane the following October.

Took Spurs into the Champions League, where they impressed last season aided by some Gareth Bale heroics.

Since Capello resigned in February, though, Spurs have stuttered in the league.

Alan Pardew

Undoubtedly one of the managers of the season, having guided Newcastle into contention for a Champions League place in his first full season on Tyneside.

Sacked by Nicola Cortese at the end of August 2010, Pardew was the surprise choice to replace Chris Hughton a few months later – his first football job outside the south of England.

SEE MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS

Mourinho has the winning touch

REAL Madrid this week claimed their first Primera Division title since 2008 tonight after beating Athletic Bilbao 3-0.

Real's triumph means coach Jose Mourinho has now won championships in four of Europe's leading leagues following successes in Portugal, England and Italy.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at Mourinho's title wins:

PORTO (Portugal)

2002/03: Mourinho won the first of back-to-back Liga titles with Porto in 2003 when, in his first full season at the club, he helped them finish 11 points clear of his former club Benfica after losing just twice in 34 games.

2003/04: It was an almost identical story the following season as Porto retained their title with an eight-point gap to Benfica after again losing just two matches. Mourinho also led Porto to the Champions League title that season before leaving to join Chelsea.

JOSE MOURINHO

CHELSEA (England)

2004/05: Mourinho was an immediate hit in England as, in his first season, he led Chelsea to only the second championship in their history and first since 1955. The Blues lost just once in 38 matches to finish 12 clear of reigning champions Arsenal.

2005/06: As with Porto, Mourinho led Chelsea to successive Premier League titles following another dominant season which saw them finish eight points clear of Manchester United despite losing their final two games.

INTER MILAN (Italy)

2008/09: Having left Chelsea in late 2007, Mourinho took charge of Inter the following summer and again it did not take him long to work his magic as the Nerazzurri won the league in his debut season with a 10-point gap to Juventus.

2009/10: Mourinho's Inter retained their title during a record-breaking season which saw them become the first Italian side to win the treble of Serie A, Champions League and Coppa Italia. That summer Mourinho left Italy to join Real Madrid.

REAL MADRID (Spain)

2011/12: After failing to knock two-time reigning champions Barcelona off their perch during his first season at the Bernabeu, Mourinho tasted league success in his second year following a record-breaking campaign which saw them smash the club's 51-year-old record of 168 competitive goals in a season and pass the Primera Division single-season record of 107, which was set by Madrid in 1990.

Premier League here we come!

Moved to poetry by Nigel

SAINTS fan Matt West has sent this poem to the Sports Pink in the wake of the promotion-clinching victory over Coventry at St Mary's.

In a dream, Rickie Lambert, goal machine,
Hits a hat-trick, sweeping clean
Fading traces of an old regime
Wiping out Lowe's legacy
That saw us falling to defeat
Dropping down the football leagues.

In a dream, Marcus Liebherr takes the stands
Triumphant, raising up his hands
Acknowledging the roaring chants,
Rewarded by those well laid plans
Deified by football fans.

In a dream, Nigel Atkins standing proud,

NIGEL ADKINS

Paying homage to the crowd
A Saints flag round him like a shroud
Hugging players, tears allowed

In a dream, Saints back up where they belong
Seven years is far too long
To languish with the unwashed throng
From Portsmouth, Bournemouth or Brighton

In a dream, the last home game at St Mary's
Surfing a wave like a tsunami
Lifted back to the Premier League

In a dream, the final score, saints win five two
Heading to Ladbrokes to join the queue
Of punters come to claim their dues,
A celebratory beer or two
Maybe a pint of special brew...

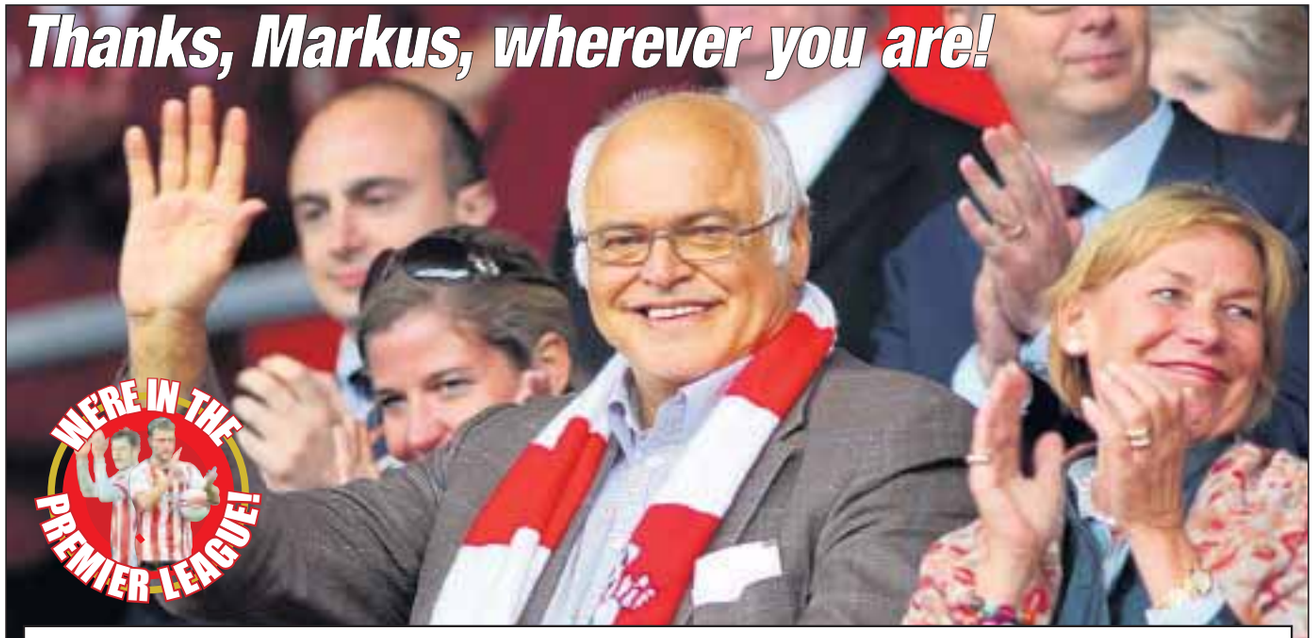
In a dream, only the score line changed,
Here's to the Premier League,
Come on you Saints!

● *Email your Saints poems to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk*

Programmes

THIS year's annual Saints Programme Fair will take place on Saturday, May 26, in the Dell Café Bar at St Mary's Stadium.

Thanks, Markus, wherever you are!



SAINTS fan Ronald Eades, 82, from Bishopstoke, wrote this poem following Saints' victory over Coventry.

3 years ago we were in despair
Administration was everywhere
Our beloved team was down and nearly out
But we still kept fighting on with a shout

The fans were sad, our team the Saints
We're looking for a saviour scout
From anywhere about
For suddenly from I don't know where
Came this lovely man, our saviour a Saint, Mr Liebherr

A family man, his beaming smile, was like the sun
It made us feel good, each and everyone
With him came Mr Cortese too
He was the man who knew what to do

We were in league one
The bottom of the pile
But we started to climb up in real style
Off to Wembley for a pot of paint
This was the start of our 'Super Saints'

The new season started with a breath of fresh air
A new manager, Nigel Adkins, he was there
He has this philosophy how to play the game
The whole of St Mary's, now on a different plain

The players wear red and white with pride
The fans adore them, opposition have nowhere to hide

The players and staff have done us proud,
To reach the premiership we must sing aloud
'Come on you Saints' and raise our eyes
And thank a super Saint riding high in the sky
He truly was a super saint our Mr Liebherr
Thank you thank you, wherever you are
You will always be our guiding star
So now it comes to the Premiership
Let's show them how it should be done
We are Super Saints
Together as one!!

Saints fans' vox pops after the 4-0 win over Coventry City ...

We've had a seven-year struggle so it's fantastic to be back and big respect to the Liebherr family. This tops everything.

Adam Smart, 31, Sholing

This was for Markus Liebherr and the fans, I'm euphoric. Everyone deserves this, right down to us fans, the support at away games has been incredible.

Martin Childs, 37, Totton

I've waited for this for a long time – I can only just remember us in the Premier League.

Harry Hall, 13, Gillingham, Dorset

I think we'll do a Norwich City and hold our own after doing the double bounce.

Matthew Hall, 53, Gillingham, Dorset

It was so good to see us win when we really needed to. I didn't think we'd do it but now I can't wait to see the big teams at St Mary's.

Rachel Colman, 11, Hedge End

It's the best feeling in the world. Bring on Man Utd! Nigel Adkins has got it right, there's no better manager to take us into the Premier League.

Tasha Harrison, 33, Thornhill

We were gutted not to go up last week travelling to Middlesbrough, our 15th away trip of the season. But I would have taken a mid-table finish back in August and to go up at St Mary's was special.

Mary James, 39, Totton

What a day! But now we need to buy a decent central midfielder and Kasper Schmeichel.

Steve Duff, 30, Poole

It was a nervy first ten minutes but we didn't look back after the first goal. We need to spend big and get Yakubu.

Graham Duff, 30, Poole

This was my first visit to St Mary's and I'll be buying a season ticket now. I thought the Saints were marvellous!

David Addy, 65, Weymouth

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAINTS' PROMOTION AT: www.dailyecho.co.uk

Premier League here we come!

THE BIG REVEAL: Craig Foster unveils his Saints flag at his school in West Ham country.

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Simon Carter
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SPORTS EDITOR

ALL Saints fans enjoyed last weekend's promotion party – but Craig Foster had an extra reason to arrive in work on Monday with a spring in his step.

That's because he works right in the heart of West Ham territory!

Since 2002, the 49-year-old has been employed as a teacher at the Oaks Park High School in Ilford, Essex.

The school boasts many Hammers-supporting pupils and staff, including the head teacher.

So no wonder Foster sneaked into work early last Monday to hang up his Saints flag.

"I sneaked into the assembly hall early to put up my flag," he said.

"Knowing it was too high to reach, I knew it would be safe!

"With my Saints shirt on under my work shirt, I welcomed in as many staff and pupils as I could find!"

Foster, from Bishopstoke, has been a season ticket holder at Saints for 30 years.

He is one of 11 members of his family who have tickets in the Kingsland Stand at St Mary's.

COLOURFUL: Saints fan Debbie Allen took this picture of Saints fans in party spirit at St Mary's last weekend and emailed it to *echosport@dailyecho.co.uk*

Despite living in Ilford – a four-hour round trip from Southampton – Foster has only missed one home league game this season.

He has also travelled to a lot of away games, but not the one on his own doorstep at Upton Park in February as he was away for the school half-term.

"That was terrible organisation on my part," he quipped.

Foster, unsurprisingly, is a big fan of Nigel Adkins.

"I can't speak highly enough of him. He's absolutely brilliant.

"He seems to exude positivity.

"That's possibly been one of the main differences between Saints and West Ham this season.

"Sam Allardyce is a gruff old guy and he's made enemies of some West Ham fans with the way he's played and criticising 'the West Ham way'.

"I don't mind reading anything Adkins says, because he's always positive.

"He never seems to have a go at referees – unlike Allardyce.

"This whole season has beeen a pleasurable surprise.

"Last August I would have been happy with consolidation, maybe even a push for the play-offs.

"My 19-year-old son said we would go straight up, and I told him 'you're having a laugh – I've been supporting this club far longer than you!'

"The Coventry game was obviously the best game of the season, and Ipswich away was probably the best performance.

"I enjoyed the night we won at Hull – it would have been a long way to go and lose.

"And that night West Ham were held at home by Middlesbrough and Reading lost at Peterborough, so it was a good night all round.

"We'll be okay next season.

"There's four or five clubs we can finish above, and I don't think I'm deluding myself by saying that.

"A lot depends on what we spend.

"We haven't really spent the Chamberlain money yet."

Asked whether he now wants West Ham to go up as well via the play-offs, Foster said: "I guess so.

"A lot of my West Ham mates have been good about it, sending me texts last Saturday.

"West Ham will have a better chance of staying up if they do go up than someone like Blackpool, because of their resources."

TURN BACK TO PAGES 6-14 FOR MORE FAN PICTURES

STEPHEN Hendry announced his retirement from snooker this week, his place as a Scottish sport great guaranteed. Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at contenders for the top ten Scottish sporting stars.

KEN BUCHANAN (BOXING)
The first British boxer to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Buchanan just edges out Jim Watt. Became the first British lightweight champion of the world in 53 years in 1970 when he beat Ismael Laguna in Puerto Rico. Defended his title twice.

SIR JACKIE STEWART (MOTOR RACING)
The bare statistics tell you how great a driver 'the Flying Scot' was - three Formula One world championships in five years between 1969 and 1973 and 27 victories from 99 grand prix races.

KENNY DALGLISH (SOCCER)
Wins a place as Scotland's greatest footballer despite stiff competition from the likes of Denis Law and Jim Baxter. Scored 172 goals in 511 appearances with Liverpool and 30 goals in 102 appearances for Scotland. Won 11 league titles north and south of the border.

SHIRLEY ROBERTSON (SAILING)
Two-time Olympic gold medallist Shirley Robertson is the only woman in the ten but is no token inclusion. Her first medal – at the Sydney Olympics – was the reward for a tenacious performance but her second at Athens was so comfortable she could afford to take the final day off.

STEPHEN HENDRY (SNOOKER)
Claimed by many to be the greatest snooker player of all time. Hendry won the World Championships seven times, a record for the modern era. Scored eight 147s in championship play.

BOBBY THOMSON (BASEBALL)
The only entrant on the list better known in the United States than in the country of his birth. 'The Staten Island Scot' - he was born in Glasgow and emigrated aged two – hit baseball's most famous home run on October 3, 1951 – 'the shot heard round the world' which won the National League pennant for the New York Giants.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON (SOCCER)
Included on the list in recognition of Scotland's unique contribution to football management. Jock Stein, Sir Matt Busby and Bill Shankly could have been picked, which is amazing for a country with just five million people to have produced four men who have had such an impact on the world's top sport.

FINLAY CALDER (RUGBY UNION)
An inspirational flanker who just about gets the nod ahead of Gavin Hastings and the mighty GPS Macpherson, Scotland's first grand slam-winning captain. In 1989 he captained the British and Irish Lions to their first series win in 25 years.

ERIC LIDDELL (ATHLETICS)
Scotland's greatest track athlete, he achieved fame at the 1924 Olympics. Missed out on a medal in the 100 metres, his best event, because his Christian convictions prevented him from competing on a Sunday, but went on to win the 400m and a bronze in the 200m.

SIR CHRIS HOY (CYCLING)
Became Scotland's greatest Olympian after the track cyclist picked up three gold medals at the Beijing Games to add to the one he won in Athens in 2004. A four-time Olympic champion in all, Hoy beats Robert Millar as the country's greatest cyclist.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Managers resign – after win

THATCHAM Town's management team of Gary Ackling and Jason Braidwood resigned after last Saturday's 3-2 victory at Wimborne Town.

Braidwood, Thatcham's manager during their Wessex League days, returned to the club as assistant to Ackling who was first appointed boss in April 2008.

Prior to rejoining the Berkshire outfit, Braidwood had done some scouting for AFC Totton and went on to become part of Andy Leader's management team at Andover.

Thatcham lost to Sholing in last season's Evo-Stik South & West play-off semi-final and, after a good start to the current campaign, tailed off to finish eighth.

Ackling had met with chairman Eric Bailey to discuss plans for the club and next season's budget and opted against continuing at Waterside Park.

A club statement said: "The committee would like to put on record their thanks to Gary and Jason for all their hard work and dedication over the past few seasons and wish them all the best."

Goals from Jamie Davidson and Tom Jeffes were not enough to save Wimborne from a last-day defeat.

Steve Cuss's Magpies slipped 3-0 into arrears before Davidson and Jeffes added some respectability to the scoreline.

"It was a bit disappointing because we wanted to end the season with a victory," said Cuss, pictured.

"It wasn't our best performance on the day, but I'm not taking anything away from the players after the way they've been playing recently."

Email your football pictures to sportsdesk@dailyecho.co.uk

RITCHIE TURNS UP HEAT ON OXFORD

Simon Walter
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AFC TOTTON manager Stuart Ritchie believes all the pressure will be on Oxford City in Monday's Evostik Southern Premier play-off final.

The Stags will play Oxford for the right to play in Blue Square South following their dramatic 3-2 win against Chesham at the Testwood Stadium on Thursday night.

Totton beat an Oxford side including former Saints striker Steve Basham 6-1 last September before drawing 2-2 there in December.

But they finished three points behind them in third, and Ritchie insisted: "The pressure is on Oxford. It's a little bit surreal to be in the play-off final in our first season in this division. If you ask the supporters they'd have probably settled for mid-table at the start."

Ritchie, pictured below, will be leaving Totton after eight years in charge at the end of the season, which concludes with a second cup final; the Hampshire Senior Cup final against Eastleigh at St Mary's on May 16 that will see FIFA experiment with goal-line technology.

His move to Havant & Waterlooville is the worst-kept secret in non-league football, but for now he is basking in the afterglow of another memorable night at the Testwood Stadium.

Totton's 2-0 half-time lead, courtesy of goals from Jonathan Davies and Michael Charles, was cancelled out by the 56th minute. But Ryan Moss lobbed a brilliant winner on the hour.

"Next season is next season, it's just great to be in another play-off final," said Ritchie. "I believe in this group, they pulled out a great result.

"It was a fantastic game, the boys were excellent and so was the atmosphere. It was pressurised but we played with a bit of freedom.

"I always thought we would create chances, even after they got back to 2-2. They're a good footballing team and kept the ball well."

Davies was Totton's man-of-the-match in the 2-0 win against Bedford that ensured a home semi-final on Tuesday night.

And after netting the opener it was his scintillating run down the right flank that set up Charles for Totton's second against Chesham.

"Jono Davies hasn't had a great season but he's come alive in the last two games and it was a great run and cross for our second," continued Ritchie.

"We all dug in at 2-2, it was a fantastic achievement. Playing two in three days was asking a bit too much but we worked very hard."

ABOVE: Totton's Jonathan Davies attempts a volley against Chesham. Order no: 14342231

BELOW: Michael Charles celebrates his goal. Order no: 14342085

Simkin: I really need a holiday!

PHIL Simkin, manager of Blue Square Bet outfit Dorchester Town, is looking forward to a well-earned break after helping to guide the Magpies to their best points tally in seven seasons.

The final-day 1-1 home draw with ten-man Bromley ensured Dorchester finished the campaign in 11th spot – a place above Eastleigh – with 56 points to their name.

Simkin, who had spell as caretaker boss earlier in the season when Ashley Vickers left and was then named as permanent successor to Alan Knight, admitted: "I don't think I've needed a holiday as much as I do now.

"It's been a strange season and so many things have happened – some good, some not so good.

"I was pleased with the performance against Bromley because it was cold, blustery and the pitch was bobbly, yet we still passed the ball around.

"Mark Jermyn and I changed the culture of the club and, whatever happens to me in future, I just want to be remembered as someone who helped start this culture. Hopefully one day we will produce players of our own who play the right way."

MORE NON-LEAGUE ON PAGES 34-37

Non-league Football

Poore faces up to agonising decision over football future

CARL Poore, the man who captained Poole Town to Sydenhams Wessex League glory and promotion, faces an agonising decision whether to retire due to arthritis.

The Dolphins star, a key figure in the Dorset club's recent rise, is struggling to regain full fitness following surgery on his right ankle.

Poore has been a frustrated spectator since being carried off in the FA Vase semi-final second leg defeat at Whitley Bay last April.

The former Wimborne Town and Dorchester Town defender, also a keen cricketer, went under the knife last year after an MRI scan had revealed a split tendon, ligament damage and floating bone.

Despite the operation proving a success, arthritis could force Poore, pictured, to hang up his boots.

Poore, who has been trying to step up his recovery by playing for Cranborne in the Dorset Premier League, admitted: "To be honest, the ankle is not in good shape.

"After every game I am struggling.

"In the next couple of weeks I have got to make a decision on what to do next season.

"The operation went well and the surgeon was happy with it, but I have got arthritis in it now and I am struggling with that. It is flaring up after every game and training session.

"I am doing coaching courses in the summer so, if the worst comes to the worst, I could go down that route.

"I have got to think of myself in later life and I don't want to suffer in ten years' time."

Right-back Poore has made 124 appearances since joining Poole from Wimborne in July 2008, but he has not featured at all this season following the Dolphins' return to the Southern League.

"I would love to go back to Poole because they are flying," he said. "It is hard not to be involved, but great to know they are doing really well.

"I spoke to (Poole manager) Tom Killick who said to see how I felt and make sure I made the right decision. If you make the decision to call it a day, you are a long time out of the game.

"At the age of 29, it is not the decision I want to be making. The last thing I want to do is knock it on the head, but it is a case of whether or not I feel my ankle is going to give me problems in later life."

BOWERS PUTS FAMILY FIRST

"Burnt out" Danny stands down as GE Hamble co-manager

GE Hamble's end-of-season presentation do was a moving occasion for Danny Bowers.

After three years back at the Planemakers helm, one of the Wessex League's most passionate characters announced he had relinquished the role of co-manager.

"It was quite emotional," Bowers admitted. "I told the players after Saturday's game that I was stepping down and then I made it official at the presentation evening.

"A couple of times I had to stop speaking because I thought I was going to well up.

"I'd been back and forth more times than a yo-yo deciding what to do.

"When I listened to the lads and all the camaraderie in the dressing room, I thought how much I'm going to miss the banter. It can be such fun."

Considering Bowers's infectious love of the game, it begs the question of why he has chosen to release the first-team reins and move upstairs as director of football at Follands Park.

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

The answer is two-fold.

He came back with a three-year plan to restore the club's Sydenhams Premier status and establish them as viable contenders for the league title.

That goal has now been achieved and the father of three believes he should be spending more time with his family.

"My wife Philippa has been fantastic. She's supported me immensely and said don't do it for us," he said.

"But I can come back to football any time, whereas I can't go back and make up the lost time with my family.

"It's a massive wrench for me to relinquish the role because I've loved every minute of it. But I've put so much into it at Hamble – as has everyone else – that I feel burnt out. It's time to let someone else take it on.

"I'm blessed to have worked with such a lovely group of lads and with (co manager) Paul Cotton and (coaches) Dave Lewis and Tim Middleton.

"It's also been great getting close to my dad, Gilly, again. He came to the club this season as chairman and he's going to stay on. Where he's retired now, he's found a love for football and for Hamble as well."

When Bowers returned for a second stint at Follands Park three years ago, they had just been relegated to the Sydenhams Division One.

His inspirational presence helped them back to the top flight as champions, since when they have transformed themselves from perennial strugglers to one rubbing shoulders with the likes of Bemerton, Christchurch and Moneyfields among the Wessex elite.

"I came back with a three-year plan to get promotion in the first season, establish ourselves as a sustainable Premier Division club in the second season and then push for the title in the third," he said.

"If I'm honest, we've fallen short this year. I'm not saying we're a better side than (champions) Winchester City, but with the squad we've got we could have done a bit better.

"But if you look back four or five years, Hamble have come on in leaps and bounds. We're no longer thought of as a club holding up the Wessex League, we're one who can push for the title."

Bowers has taken on the director of football role not just to support the new management team of Cotton and Lewis, but to convince people that his heart is still with the club.

"When we played Totton & Eling on Saturday, Danny Steer and Kev Dawtry both asked if I was going to Totton," he said.

"To be honest, if a massive club like that did come in it would be stupid not to speak to them, but I said the only way I'd go to another club was if Newcastle United came in for me. And considering the season Alan Pardew's had, I don't think there's much chance of that!" he joked.

"I'll be in the background at Hamble giving any support I can, but it would be nice to know too that I'd be free to watch a game at St Mary's or Eastleigh if I wanted to."

Non-league News

Macey building plans

WHITCHURCH boss Jim Macey is already planning for next season and wants to build on the squad that, for the second year running, have finished in the Sydenhams One top ten.

'Church had a disappointing end to their campaign, losing 4-1 at Amesbury last Saturday, securing them ninth in the standings.

That result was a far cry from their heroics earlier in the season when they brushed aside Bemerton, Brading and Brockenhurst to reach the second qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Reflecting on the Amesbury defeat, Macey said: "It was a disappointing way to finish the season. I was hoping we would finish seventh.

"We have just not been consistent in the league, but it is not all doom and gloom as we won some silverware and also had an excellent run in the FA Cup, going the furthest we ever have in the competition.

"I now just want to add five or six players. A goal scorer is what we were really lacking and that is something I want to address over the summer."

Recruitment drive

SYDENHAMS Division One champions Verwood Town are looking to bolster their management and support team in preparation for next season's Premier Division campaign.

The Potterne Park club are seeking the services of a player/coach with Southern, Wessex or equivalent league experience.

Verwood also need a physio to assist on matchdays and support the management team.

Anyone interested should contact first-team boss Adie Arnold, pictured, on 07973 957708.

Keep up-to-date with the latest non-league news at dailyecho.co.uk

BOWERS BACKS LEWIS TO CONTINUE PLANEMAKERS' PROGRESS – P34

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Ex-City ace released

FORMER Salisbury City fans' favourite Ed Asafu-Adjaye has been released from contract by Blue Square Bet Premier club Luton Town.

The defender, pictured below, made 82 appearances for the Hatters and was part of the side that lifted the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

Asafu-Adjaye won several man-of-the-match accolades on loan at Salisbury during their Conference National season of 2007/08.

The right-back was recalled by the then Hatters manager Mick Harford in late March and made his Luton debut in a 2-1 home victory over Crewe Alexandra just days after returning to Kenilworth Road.

Town pair stay on

EXPERIENCED striker Tim Sills and promising, young goalkeeper Joe McDonnell have penned new one-year deals for Basingstoke Town.

Romsey-born Sills, 32, pictured below, returned to the Camrose Ground for the 2011/12 campaign following his release by League Two side Aldershot Town.

It is his second spell at the north Hampshire club, having initially made his name for Basingstoke between 1999 and 2002, making 104 appearances and scoring 33 goals. It provided the springboard for subsequent moves to Kingstonian, Aldershot, Hereford, Torquay United and Stevenage Borough.

Goalkeeper McDonnell is only just starting out on his career. A product of the club's youth system, he has made one first-team appearance this season.

McDonnell made local headlines for all the right reasons in January when he linked up with Portuguese giants Benfica for a week-long trial.

Bowers backs his successor to continue GE Hamble progress

LEW AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

THE paint on the dressing room walls at GE Hamble can rest easy next season, according to out-going co-manager Danny Bowers.

Whereas Bowers's 'hairdryer' rants were enough to peel off a layer of top-coat, his successor Dave Lewis is an altogether calmer character.

Lewis, pictured below, who has worked side by side with Bowers as first-team coach at Hamble, has been charged with taking over first-team affairs alongside club stalwart Paul Cotton.

He and Bowers are business partners as well as footballing friends and one of the reasons they have worked so well together over the years is that their temperaments are as different as chalk and cheese.

"We're black and white," said Bowers. "I'm loud and fiery whereas Dave is calm and collected.

"It's like 'good cop, bad cop', although Dave does have a bit of mean streak when he needs to.

"I'm more of a motivator, whereas Dave doesn't swear or shout. He'll talk to people."

Despite their extremes of personality, Bowers is convinced it will be a seamless handover as the Planemakers bid to build on this season's (fifth/fourth) placed finish in Sydenhams Premier Division.

"Wherever I've been, Dave's been with me. We've always done things together," he said.

"All the players we've signed, we've decided between us.

"And every time I've made an individual decision and asked Dave 'do you agree?', I can't ever remember him saying 'no' he'd do it another way.

"But whereas my drive has died a bit, Dave is fresh and ready to go.

"He's very tactical-minded and he's already earned a lot of respect from the players by being first-team coach.

"The players know they can trust him and I just hope everyone stays and that the club will push on and hopefully win the title next year.

"It's true that a lot of players play for managers, but I think they owe it to Dave and Paul to have a go with them and give them the opportunity to show what they can do.

"There might be one or two who go and chase the 'Disney dollar' elsewhere, but I'd expect most of them to stay."

In Bowers's book a change of voice in the dressing room will be no bad thing.

"The club's had three years of me being loud and robust and I think the committee have made the right appointment, " he said. "Dave's very respectful of the club and I've never met anyone with a bad word to say about him.

"He's had a good football career too, having played at a decent level for clubs like Havant, Fleet, Bashley and Andover,"

Bowers, who is staying on as director of football, will be around to support the management team when needed, but has every faith Lewis will quickly adapt to his new role.

"Dave may want me to go and watch some games and look at players for him, but he will find his own feet.

"He'll make mistakes, like we all do, but it's how you learn from them," he said.

"He won't have to change things massively because there's nothing wrong.

"He wants the chance to prove we can win the league with the side we've got and I believe he will take the club to the next step."

The only word of warning Bowers has about Hamble's new co-manager is to avoid him in the clubhouse at all costs.

"Dave's so laid-back, he's horizontal – but can he talk!" laughed Bowers.

"He adores his football and if you catch him in the bar after a game you'd need ten pints to stand with him – he goes on for hours!"

Jar very much ...

ASHLEY Jarvis scooped three of the night's big prizes at GE Hamble's end-of-season awards.

The 33-goal striker, pictured above, walked off with the players' player and supporters' player-of-the-season prizes – plus the golden boot for top scorer.

But his frontline sidekick Jamie Musselwhite might well take a share of the latter as he too ended the season on 33 goals, having scored in Tuesday's 2-1 home defeat by Bournemouth Poppies.

Managers Danny Bowers and Paul Cotton selected experienced midfielder Lloyd Webber as their player-of-the-year, while the sponsors plumped for full-back Matt Troon.

The Planemakers' young goalkeeping talent Jon Webb received a special award for outstanding contribution.

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Non-league Football

Spitfires in City raid for Williams

EASTLEIGH have started their summer business early, signing striker Marvin Williams from Blue Square Bet South rivals Salisbury City.

The 24-year-old, who can also play as a wide midfielder, started his career at Millwall and joined Salisbury mid-season from Hemel Hempstead Town who were managed at the time by ex-Whites boss Tommy Widdrington.

Williams has signed an initial two-year deal for the Spitfires whose manager Ian Baird said: "Marvin is a player I've been tracking for a while and looked very dangerous when we played Salisbury back in February.

"He's quick, direct and will add good competition for places.

"He's still a young lad with bags of potential and hopefully can fulfil that and progress with us."

ON THE RUN: Marvin Williams, left, in action for Salisbury City.

NO ORDINARY JOE

Hawks survive thanks to Dolan's first goal in three years

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JOE Dolan picked the perfect time to score his first goal in three years.

The centre-back's dramatic stoppage-time winner was worth its weight in gold to Havant & Waterlooville last Saturday as it secured the club's survival in the Blue Square Bet South.

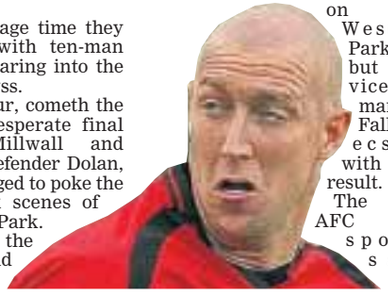
When news filtered through that Eastleigh were trailing 4-3 at third-to-bottom Maidenhead, the Hawks looked set to crash through the relegation trap door.

Heading into stoppage time they were drawing 2-2 with ten-man Staines Town and staring into the Southern League abyss.

But cometh the hour, cometh the man and in one desperate final attack former Millwall and Basingstoke Town defender Dolan, pictured right, managed to poke the ball home to spark scenes of ecstasy at Westleigh Park.

"I can't remember the last time I scored – and when I do it's usually an own goal!" smiled Dolan.

"I've had experience of being in a relegation battle before, but I've not been involved in anything quite like this."



He may be new on the Westleigh Park scene, but Hawks vice-chairman Jim Fallon was ecstatic with the result.

The former AFC Totton sponsor said: "You wouldn't believe what it's worth. It's like winning the Champions' League final.

And he pledged: "We'll restructure the club and we'll never be in this position again.

"Right from the start I want to see us challenging for promotion next season."

Havant's joy was in stark contrast to the deep despair of Maidenhead, who will have Thurrock and Hampton & Richmond Borough for company on the way down.

The Magpies led Eastleigh 2-0 before goals by Lee Peacock, teenage substitute Sam Wilson – his first in the league – and Mitchell Nelson put the Spitfires 3-2 up.

But Maidenhead came again, making it 3-3 before plundering a stoppage-time winner through Paul Semakula.

"Maidenhead celebrated like they had won the Champions' League but then, unfortunately for them, they got the news that Havant had scored," said Spitfires' boss Ian Baird.

Despite the ill-feeling that followed Baird's shock decision to quit Havant and join Eastleigh in 2007, the ex-Saint insists he had no feelings either way on the relegation issue.

"The most important thing for us was to concentrate on ourselves and not get involved with anything else going on," he said.

"But unfortunately our performance at Maidenhead reflected our whole season – consistently inconsistent and with some bad luck.

"(Goalkeeper) Jack Dovey had to come off early with an ankle injury and then we lost (skipper) Tom Jordan to a tweaked medial knee ligament before half-time.

"Then later on Gary Elphick got a dead leg and was effectively a passenger. It was like playing with ten men."

BSB CONFERENCE SOUTH – BOTTOM FOUR

Havant & W'loo	42	11	11	20	64	75	44
Maidenhead	42	11	10	21	49	74	43
Hampton	42	10	12	20	53	69	42
Thurrock	42	5	11	26	33	84	26

Non-league News

Green in the pink

EX-EASTLEIGH and Winchester City midfielder Liam Green helped Bashley to a 2-0 final-day victory over Hemel Hempstead Town in the Evo-Stik Premier Division.

Green, pictured right, gave the Foresters the lead on 74 minutes before Gary Middleton doubled the advantage eight minutes from time.

It left Steve Riley's men in a respectable 13th spot.

Wimborne double up

WIMBORNE Town plan to run two under-18 sides next season.

There is a good progression path at the Cuthbury club with seven youth graduates having played for Wimborne's reserves this season and three selected for the Southern League first team at various times.

Trials for prospective new players will be taking place until the end of May.

For further information please contact manager Chris Horan at *chris@wtfcyouth.co.uk*.

Comeback vow

DORCHESTER Town's well-travelled goalkeeper Alan Walker-Harris is determined he will bounce back from a broken leg.

The 30-year-old suffered the injury in the last few moments of the Mapgies' March 24 win over Dartford and remains uncertain how long he will be on the sidelines.

"I want to prove to people that they have not seen the last of me," pledged the former Lymington & New Milton, Bashley, Winchester City, Eastleigh, Brockenhurst and Wimborne stopper.

"When you break a leg people question whether you will come back, but I know I won't be a worse player for it.

"It's all about getting the rehab right. I'm not looking to rush myself, I will do it right and set myself targets along the way.

"I will try and find out when playing football is a realistic target, but at the moment I don't have a clue."

MORE NON-LEAGUE APPEARS IN MONDAY'S *DAILY ECHO*

Non-league Football

Third time unlucky

SHOLING boast a proud three-out-of-three success rate when it comes to reaching the Southern One South & West play-offs.

But alas for Dave Diaper's (pictured) men, they have yet to hit the jackpot in the annual end-of-season lottery.

Having lost the semi at Bridgwater in their debut Southern League season, the Boatmen went one better last term by hosting the final as league runners-up.

But, despite a near perfect record of 19 out of 20 home victories in the regular league campaign, they were surprisingly beaten by Frome Town, who had finished the season two places and a whopping 16 points beneath them.

Last Monday Sholing began their quest to make it third time lucky in an all-south coast semi-final at Gosport Borough.

But again the play-off curse came back to haunt them in a game turned by the 43rd-minute dismissal of Boatmen's midfielder Lewis Fennemore.

Sholing had been well in command up to that point, displaying none of the nerves that had eaten away at them against Frome 12 months earlier.

But playing with a man short ruined their game plan and Borough dangerman Justin Bennett shattered their dreams with an acrobatic overhead strike just after the hour.

"Last year I was distraught to lose to Frome because we'd finished second in the league, but this year it's not quite as bad because we finished fourth," said Diaper.

"But everything was going to plan against Gosport until we had a man sent off.

"Our 4-4-1-1 system was causing Gosport problems and I think most people who watched the game will think we were very unfortunate.

"We were confident beforehand, but you can't do it with ten men."

While applauding Bennett for the quality of the winning goal, Diaper was convinced the Boatmen were denied the chance to scrub it out in second-half stoppage time.

Lee Bright went down in the area, seemingly manhandled by fellow centre-back Aaron Cook, but the referee waved away passionate penalty shouts by the men from Portsmouth Road.

"Justin's was a special goal, but it's disappointing that we didn't get a penalty at the death," Diaper reflected.

"Their centre-half got hold of Brighty, had his arms round him and pulled him back.

"The referee said Brighty was backing in, but I can't see that at all. It was a stone wall penalty in my view.

"If it had happened in the tenth minute rather than the 92nd it would have been given.

"Mind you, if it had and we'd scored, we'd have had another half-hour with ten men.

"It's disappointing, but I couldn't ask for more from the players. They gave it their all.

"I'm proud of them. They worked their socks off – they had to."

Fennemore's moment of madness so costly for Sholing

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

DAVE Diaper knew Sholing's play-off hopes had gone out of the window as soon as Lewis Fennemore was shown a straight red in Monday's Evo-Stik South & West semi-final at Gosport Borough.

Chelsea proved in Barcelona that ten men can work miracles, but that was scant consolation to Diaper who sensed deep down that the Boatmen would struggle to recover from Fennemore's moment of madness.

"I was confident beforehand that we had got our game plan right, but all that goes to bits when you get a player sent off. You can't do it with ten men," said Diaper, whose side had dominated until Fennemore unwisely took Dan Wooden out right in front of the Gosport dugout with 43 minutes gone.

Were it not for two excellent first-half stops from Borough's outstanding young keeper Nathan Ashmore, which denied Byron Mason and Marvin McLean, the Boatmen may well have avenged two league defeats and an FA Trophy elimination at Gosport's hands this season.

Reckless

But just when it looked as if the pace, movement and power of Diaper's side might be too much for Borough to handle, Fennemore – a mid-season signing from GE Hamble – caught Wooden with a reckless challenge, leaving the referee with no option but to send him off.

As a Portsmouth lad formerly on the books of Havant & Waterlooville, Moneyfields, Fareham Town – and Gosport! – the towering midfielder is a well-known figure at Privett Park – and that, according to Diaper, was half the problem.

"Lewis knows a lot of the Gosport players and goes out drinking with them," said the Sholing boss.

"He's distraught about what's happened and it's a bit annoying.

MARCHING ORDERS: Lewis Fennemore, centre.

RED CARD WAS SHO STOPPER – DIAPER

I knew they'd try to wind up Diaps (Marc Diaper), Fennemore and, possibly Tyzer (Tyronne Bowers) because they're the easiest to wind up.

"Gosport are pretty streetwise and, as soon as the challenge went in, they all squealed to the referee trying to get Lewis sent off.

"But I've got no complaints, it was a red card and it cost us."

On the one hand Gosport boss Alex Pike sympathised with Fennemore because he knew the tackle was totally out of character.

But on the other, it was clear that Wooden – another ex-Moneyfields lad from Portsmouth – had been lucky to escape serious injury.

Horrendous

"I feel sorry for Lewis Fennemore because I know him and he's not that type of player," said Pike.

"But I think the occasion got to him because it was an horrendous tackle. He went straight through my player's shin pad and he's got two stud marks on his shin.

"The sending off killed the game for them. Sholing were definitely the better side in the first half.

"They had more chances and, if it wasn't for two great saves from Nathan Ashmore, we'd have been in big trouble.

"That lad (Ashmore) should go on to be a pro keeper."

Pike hails Bennett wonder goal

A QUALITY goal from a quality striker booked Gosport Borough's passage through to Monday's Southern One South & West play-off final at Poole Town (3pm).

There seemed little for Sholing's defence to worry about when Borough bright spark Dan Woodward fired the ball into the danger zone with 62 minutes gone at Privett Park on Monday.

But as it broke loose, former Andover and Eastleigh marksman Justin Bennett, right, met it, back to goal, and beat 'keeper Mike Hookway with a sublime bicycle kick – his 41st goal in all competitions this season.

Just a few weeks back, Dave Diaper cited Bennett's extraordinary scoring exploits as the difference between Gosport and all the other play-off contenders – and how right he could turn out to be.

"It was some goal!" admitted the Sholing boss.

"You can't win a game like that with ten men, but I couldn't have asked for more from my players.

"They gave it their all and, at the end of the day, it took a special goal to win it. That bloke Justin Bennett is the bane of my life!"

Pike, who has been lucky enough to have 29-year-old Bennett on his books for the best part of five seasons, never tires of praising his perennial goal-getter.

"Give Justin half a yard in the box and he can make something out of nothing," he said.

"There are not many players at this level who have got the technique to do what Justin did tonight – or the confidence to try it.

"Managers have said that you have to stop Justin to stop Gosport.

"Sholing stopped him facing goal, but they couldn't stop him with his back to goal.

"It was a superb bicycle kick, it's in the back of the net and that was just sheer quality," he smiled.

Given the importance of the occasion, Bennett ranked it the best – and technically most difficult – goal he had ever scored.

"I could probably try it another 100 times and I wouldn't even get it on target, so it was nice it ended up in the bottom corner," he said.

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Non-league Football

CURTIS EXCITED BY LINNETS CHALLENGE

FIRST MANAGERIAL POST: Darren Curtis.

NEW Milton Town have promoted skipper Darren Curtis to the role of first-team manager.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

The Linnets didn't let the grass grow under their feet when Glenn Burnett broke news of his departure earlier this week.

Rather than trawl through several outside candidates, they decided to go with what they know and give 31-year-old Curtis his first taste of management.

Curtis, who hails from Shirley, Southampton, was a trainee at Fulham during Kevin Keegan's time at Craven Cottage and featured for Glenn Cockerill's reserve side.

After leaving the west London club, he signed for Geoff Butler at Salisbury City and has since done the rounds of the local non-League scene with the likes of AFC Totton, VT FC, Bashley, Lymington & New Milton, Romsey and Wimborne Town.

He made six Wessex appearances for Blackfield & Langley at the start of this season before being reunited with his old Romsey boss Burnett at New Milton.

Now he aims to take some of Burnett's inspiration, blend it with bits learned from other managers and, most importantly, stamp his own managerial mark at Fawcett's Field.

"I'm very, very excited about taking the job on," said Curtis.

"I've just started up my own sports coaching company, Team Spirit, so I was going to hang my boots up anyway because I can't go into schools coaching with a black eye or a broken leg.

"I'd been thinking about management for some time. It inspires me.

"For motivation Glenn Burnett is probably the best manager I've played under. But as a tactician and someone who gives you the confidence to go out and play football, it had to be Alex Browne and his assistant Darren Powell down at Wimborne.

"I've been in dressing rooms around this area for a long time, going back to when I was an 18-year-old whipper-snapper at Salisbury. I've got plenty of players I want to talk to and I coach every day and have an FA Level 2 qualification. I feel I can do this job and build a good, organised side."

> "I feel I can do this job and build a good, organised side"

During his time on the playing circuit Curtis has been very much 'one of the lads'. The trick now is to keep that good relationship going, but also let the players know who's boss.

"I like to think I've learned a lot from Glenn," he said. "He's also one of the lads, but he found that mix perfectly and I made sure I watched how he did it.

"I've got the respect of the players and staff at New Milton and that's half the battle.

"I'll make mistakes, but I've got my own plans and ideas and I'll manage in my own style. I'd like to think I will treat the players the way I would like to be treated.

"I'll be appointing an assistant who will be a go-between and be more involved with the lads than me. But I'll still be mixing with the players because that's what makes me who I am.

"I'm friends with a lot of them, but when I'm in the dressing room it won't be about friendship, I will be the manager."

We've got the right man for the job – Phippard

SECRETARY Richie Phippard is inspired by New Milton Town's choice of manager for next season.

Following a meeting between Phippard, chairman John Breaker and vice-chairperson Gina Sims, it was decided that this season's team captain Darren Curtis was the ideal man for the job.

"Darren has got some good ideas and will give us continuity between this season and next," said Phippard.

"He knows the players, he's got plenty of contacts in the game and he has vast coaching experience.

"Being captain this season means he has the respect of the players and he will keep those he wants to keep.

"It was a big plus too that he told us he wanted the job irrespective of whether we stayed up or went down."

Considering Glenn Burnett only announced he was leaving at the beginning of the week, New Milton didn't hang around appointing his successor.

"There was no point beating about the bush and letting things drift," said Phippard, who announced the news on Thursday morning.

"We had a couple of other calls about the job, but not from anyone we hadn't spoken to before or didn't know about.

"Darren's got a long association with the club. He played for us when we won the Wessex League and went up with us into the Ryman League.

"He's got a lot of feeling for New Milton and the good thing is that we know this guy and how he conducted himself as a player and the passion he showed for the club."

At just 31 defender Curtis could carry on playing, but Phippard said: "He won't be a player-manager, he'll just be manager because he runs his own coaching company and can't afford to get injured.

"He'd sit on the bench for us if it was absolutely necessary, but he's got his business to think of."

Following Curtis's appointment, Phippard – New Milton's assistant manager during Ian Robinson's time at the helm – feels more encouraged to stay at the club.

"It's quite exciting from my point of view," he said.

"I like Darren and have known him a long time.

"He first played for me and Ian at AFC Totton and I remember having to drive all the way to Salisbury to get the form signed in Tesco's car park.

"He and I were chatting and we both remembered that the first game he ever played for us was away at Portsmouth RN."

Non-league News

GONG TIME: Wayne Boud, left, and Fareham manager Matt Parr.

Wayne's talk of the Town

FAREHAM Town's popular midfielder Wayne Boud was the big winner at the Sydenhams Premier outfit's end-of-season presentation night.

Boud – who memorably scored a hat-trick of penalties in Town's 6-2 win over Totton & Eling – got the nod as manager's player-of-the-season from team boss Matt Parr.

He also won an extremely close battle with goalkeeper Luke Douglas and frontman Ashley Tattersall for the supporters' award – the latter two tying for second spot, just two votes behind.

Douglas got his teammates' vote as players' player-of-the-season and also picked up a merit award for his goal against GE Hamble.

Former Eastleigh and Hamble defender Sam Doswell was honoured as Fareham's best newcomer, top scorer Robbie Tambling was named best youngster and Matt Burt scooped the goal-of-the-season prize for his spectacular overhead kick at Hamworthy United.

For the reserves, Ashley Vickers won the managers' player and Jonathan Sheppard the players' player award.

Brett Lilley was a double winner for Town's Under-18 A side, securing both the manager's and players' votes.

For the under-18 B team, Ant Baker was named manager's player and Jack Outram players' player.

Non-league Football

GOING FLAT OUT: AFC Allbrook's Daryl Wheeler, left, and CS FC's Kyle Williams in action during the the Trophyman Challenge Cup final. *Order no: 14297679.*

CLOSE CONTROL: AFC Allbrook's Jon Swann, right, challenges CS FC's Martyn Randall during the the Trophyman Challenge Cup final. *Order no: 14297683.*

GOING FLAT OUT: CS FC celebrate their 6-0 win against AFC Allbrook in the Trophyman Challenge Cup final at Sholing FC's ground. *Order no: 14297686. Pictures by Chris Moorhouse*

CS FC double up

CSFC are celebrating a league and cup double after winning last week's Trophyman Challenge Cup final.

AFC Allbrook trailed 3-0 at half-time to goals from Martin Randall and headers from Sam Floyd and Richard Adams.

Ricky Spencer volleyed the fourth from a corner before David Philpott finished two one-on-one chances to complete the scoring at Sholing FC.

Secretary Scott Johnston said: "It's been a good season, we've now won the league and cup double – but we should have won the treble."

Hawks swoop just in time

QUEENS Park Athletic Reserves were seconds away from winning the cup when Horndean Hawks snatched victory from their grasp with a controversial equaliser in the third minute of time added on.

There was barely time to restart the game at the Hampshire FA's Winklebury Football Complex before the referee blew for the end of normal time with the scores level at 2-2.

Queens Park were behind after 16 minutes when Richard Whipps' goal kick went straight to Liam Jerum 30 yards out and the Horndean centre forward gratefully accepted the invitation to advance into the penalty area and tuck his shot just inside the post.

Horndean were equally charitable just before the interval when defender Justin Reynolds somehow managed to volley Josh Harper's corner kick past his astonished goalkeeper and into the top corner of the net to put Queens Park on terms.

Horndean's left winger Ash Wheatley sped down the left in the 74th minute and his cross was driven against the crossbar by the impressive Jerum but Queens Park counterattacked and Josh Harper played the ball inside to Sean Malkin who clipped the ball into the Hawks net.

It looked as though Malkin's strike would settle the issue until Horndean forced a corner with just second to go.

In a last throw of the dice, Ash Wheatley got in an effort which seemed to have been cleared off the line but, to Queens Park's dismay, a goal was awarded and the game went to extra time.

Horndean went ahead five minutes into extra time after Park's central defender Lee Pender was penalised for a challenge just outside the penalty area.

Wheatley's free kick was perfectly flighted for Hawks defender Danny Hewett to meet it at the far post with a powerful header that flew past Whipps in the Queens Park goal.

Just when a very tired looking Park seemed to be on their last legs, Lee Pender made amends by thumping home a late equaliser with a shot from outside the penalty area that took a deflection and completely deceived the Hawks goalkeeper.

With the teams level at 3-3 after extra time, the game was decided on penalties with Horndean Hawks coming out on top 4-2 to win the trophy.

HAMPSHIRE JUNIOR B CUP FINAL

Horndean Hawks 3 Queens Park Athletic Res 3 aet (Horndean Hawks won

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL – SEE PAGES 30-40

Non-league Football

Common's trophy in penalty drama

COLDEN COMMON completed a trophy double in their final game of a very successful season – having already won the Division 4 league title.

Colden Common's first experience of a full sized pitch and full size goals at AFC Totton's ground must have beendaunting in front of a large crowd.

Opening exchanges were cagey, Stone having to rush out of goal several times to clear as Ice attackers latched onto long defensive splitting balls.

Ice settled quicker to pressure Common with a free kick from outside of the box, which Boden-Johns did well to repel with a great defensive header.

When Common did stretch their legs down the right flank they were unlucky not to find the telling crosses t typical of their season.

Forrestall had the first real chance for Common racing into the box on the left but the keeper made a brave save at his feet.

At the back, Bevan did well to hold up two attackers long enough for Stone to gather.

Stone was the busier keeper in the first half and did very well to beat a long shot away for a corner. The half finished with a great through ball from Forrestall to Cattle who was unlucky to see his on target shot well saved.

■ TYRO LEAGUE U11 TOMMY TRAYNOR TROPHY FINAL

Colden Common Rangers U11 1
Ice Sports 1 (aet)
(Colden Common won 3-1 on penalties)

Common started the second half well and began to dominatewith some better passing moves.

A fine long ball from Stone released Hamstead down the right and he fired a shot into the side netting while Woodgate's fierce shot was blocked by the keeper.

The goal Common's pressure deserved came when a through ball found Cattle in space. Taking the ball beyond the defence he looped a shot over the advancing keepers.

Ice nearly levelled shortly after when Common failed to clear their lines. At the other end Cattle scuffed his shot just wide after Zagaroli played a great ball over the defence.

Forrestall was thwarted by another great diving save by the Ice keeper.

Showing variety in attack, Woodgate had the next chance, screwing a shot just wide and then Common found themselves in a three on one attack which deserved a goal. Forrestall racing in from the left, picked his spot just inside the post, but only brought a marvelous save from the keeper.

They were made to pay as, following a disputed throw-in in their half, Ice attacked down the right and their strikerlaunched and unstoppable shot from just inside the box over Stone's head into the net.

Common tried to win the game. Cattle and Boden-Johns both went close.

The teams were still deadlocked after the first period of extra time and Ice looked the stronger team in the second half but Stone's saves kept Common in the game.

Then came a match winning save from Stone, diving to his left to push a strong goal bound shot away, when it seemed certain Ice were going to score the winner.

It went to panalties and, while Sam Cattle, Neil Woodgate and Harrison Boden-Johns scored for Colden Common, Stone made two saves and another Ice shot hit the bar to give Common the trophy.

Staff pick up more silver

■ HAYWARD SATURDAY

M.A. HART Hayward Cup winners BU Staff are also champions of DIVISION FOUR after clinching the title in their penultimate game of the season against New Milton Eagles.

Tom Symons bagged a hat-trick in the champions' 7-1 triumph with Ben Cooper (2), Martin Squires and Tom Eastwood also on target while Julian Smith replied for the Eagles.

Goalkeeper Mark Watson saw red when Sway received a 7-1 drubbing against Parley Sports in the PREMIER DIVISION.

Adam Janes led the way with a hat-trick for Parley and there were further goals from Dave Peckham (2), George Beaglehole and Johnny Cook. Bill Stride scored Sway's consolation goal.

The two other scheduled Premier Division games, Allendale v Bosuns Chair and Hamworthy Recreation v Redlynch & Woodfalls United were postponed, as was the Division Two game between Sway Reserves and South Coast Demolition.

Lettings win crunch match

■ HAYWARD SUNDAY

SPECIALIST Lettings are champions of DIVISION FOUR after they just got the better of previously unbeaten title rivals Barton Wanderers 3-2 in difficult conditions at Fawcetts Field.

Shaun Waterman struck twice for Wanderers but the M.A.Hart Lawrence A Brivati Cup winners had to give best to the league leaders who netted through Danny Young, George Knijff, and Tom Williams.

All other scheduled Sunday League games were postponed.

COACH HOLIDAYS

Southern Daily Echo

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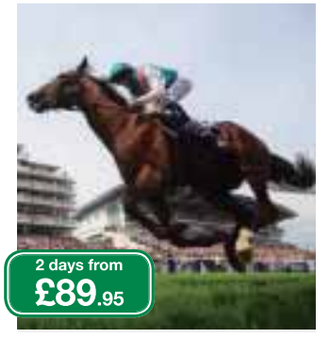

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ABTA The Travel Association

Non-league Football

Lyndhurst in top three

LYNDHURST now look favourites to finish third in Senior 1 after a 4-3 defeat of local rivals Hythe Aztecs Wade Wilson scoring twice, Tony Williams and Andy Longland after they had trailed 2-1.

Thornhill finished their season with a 3-0 win at Hedge End Town courtesy of a Jason Gibb double and Gary Dare.

Energy turn up power

IN Junior 1 Soton Energy had to fight back from 2-1 down to grab a point from Braishfield but still finish top three.

Park Sports face champions Wombles needing a three-goal victory margin to seal second spot – but will finish top four anyway and that that should enable them to step up to Senior League.

Riverside defeated Infinity Res 5-0 on Wednesday with Dan Phillips hitting a hat-trick and will finish an impressive third.

New boys seem keen

THE new teams' meeting held this week proved interesting with six in attendance – and it looks as though they will all take up the offer of entry.

There is still room for more teams but people will have to act quickly as the closing date is nearly upon us. Any late entries can leave details on *rcsutherland@supanet.com* or ansa phone 02380 864828.

League of their own

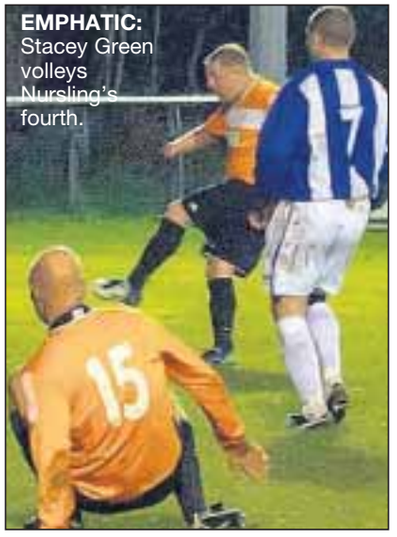
IT LOOKS like there will be enough teams to get the Casual ladies league off the ground but we could still add a couple more if there are any who would like to play once a month. Contact *rcsutherland@supanet.com* or ansa phone 02380 864828 for information.

Two clubs on way out

IT LOOKS as though we will be losing Forest Town from the Premier division as they look to move to the Hants 04. Lyndhurst have also indicated they wish to go with them.

This should leave access to Junior sides to step up to the Senior Leagues. Fair Oak are likely to be moving in the opposite direction.

MEN IN BLACK: Match officials Adrian Buckeridge, Nick Turner, Paul Newman and Trevor Hughes.



EMPHATIC: Stacey Green volleys Nursling's fourth.

WINNERS: Time for Nursling to celebrate, above.

Pictures by Tom Campbell

WELL DONE: Roger Maynard receives the man-of-the-match award from Fred Wiltshire, below.

FIVE-STAR NURSLING

CUP holders Nursling turned on a five-star display to demolish A division title rivals Sporting BTC 5-0 in impressive style.

SOUTHAMPTON FA VETS CUP FINAL

Man of the match Roger Maynard put in a great performance, including a stunning effort for the fifth goal which completed his fine hat-trick, ***writes Rod Sutherland.***

Nursling were on top from the start with Danny Gettings outstanding in midfield and they never gave Sporting a Sporting chance.

Gettings should have put Nursling ahead but his shot touched the base of the upright before screwing wide.

But the lead was not long in coming as Darren Colvin broke through to fire home.

Maynard scored later in the first half and very early in the second.

As Nursling pushed forward, Stacey Green, who had started in midfield, pushed forward and hit a fine volley from the edge of the box for the fourth.

Even that effort was eclipsed by Maynard's final effort which brought the house down.

Breaking through from the halfway line, he spotted the Sporting keeper off his line and let fly a cheeky lob which sailed over him.

Even the Sporting players joined in rapturous applause from all quarters.

VETERANS LEAGUE

THE B division title has been won by Langley Tavern – even though they were not in action, having finished their fixtures the previous week.

Tavern needed Hythe Aztecs to take points off Hedge End Rangers.

And Aztecs duly obliged by defeating Rangers 2-1.

So Tavern were celebrating today when they were due to host Wesley Sports from Ireland in a pre FA Cup final challenge match.

The Veterans A division is still live with one of three teams still able to win it.

Cup finalists Nursling and Sporting, plus Questmap, are still in the melting pot.

Sporting were facing Colden Common today and also need to defeat Questmap on Wednesday.

If both teams drop points the title could go to reigning champs Nursling should they account for Sholing.

MAGIC MOMENT: Darren Colvin captain and opening scorer lifts the trophy presented by SDFA President elect Terry Windebank.

NON-LEAGUE COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 30

Youth Football

POOLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL: Rain-soaked players celebrate after their 2-0 win over Gillingham in the Dorset Schools Under-18 Cup final. Back row (from left): Jamie Knowles, Daniel Kellaway, Max Brimson, Jack Arnold, Sam Adams, Harley Southwick, Jake Daniels, Ali McIntosh, Matt Collom, Jon Dawson. Front: Michael Porter, Harry Cornick, Ben Mogg, Ollie Soulsby.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL HELPLINES

● **WHITELEY Wanderers Youth Football Club are recruiting players to join their under-12, 13 and 14 boys teams (current school Years 6, 7 and 8) for the 2012/13 season.**

Interested? Please contact Mark Balsdon on 07749 730128 or visit *clubwebsite.co.uk/whiteleyjuniors*.

● **BROOKHILL youth require players for the 2012/13 under-14 Tyro League season. If interested contact 07411 332358.**

● **WINCHESTER Youth under-13s are always looking for good players – if you would like a trial please contact John Jowitt on 07768 742476.**

● **HEDGE End Rangers under- 11s blue are currently looking for players to join them for next season's Tyro League campaign.**

If you are in Year 6 and have a willingness to learn from a professional coach twice a week at Wildern School, then please call Dave on 07770 411961.

● **TESTWOOD United Youth FC under-14s require players – particularly a striker – for next season's squad. If interested please ring John on 07919 341760.**

SAINTS' DOUBLE VISION

SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS GIRLS & LADIES FC'S UNDER-14s: New Forest Girls Football League Cup winners.

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Girls & Ladies FC's under-14s are on course for a league and cup double.

Heavy favourites for the league title, having so far won all their 13 games, Saints secured the New Forest Girls Football League Cup with a 1-0 victory over Corfe Mullen – their nearest pursuers in the league.

Saints had the better of the first half, but shots from Megan Chapman, Elle Pearce, Tiffany Eley, Vogue Davies and Charlie Hall were dealt with comfortably by the very good Corfe Mullen keeper.

Corfe had their moments too and forced several corners and, just before the break, a well-struck shot from a Corfe striker whistled past the post.

Saints were more assured defensively in the second half, although keeper Courtney Trodd did very well to fall on the ball as it bobbled close to the goal-line.

Saints finally scored the goal their superior ball possession and attacking deserved. Eley shot powerfully from distance and the Corfe keeper for once failed to hold on to it. Tori Adlam was quickest to react, stretching out a leg and toe-poking the ball into the far corner.

Saints' defence, with Hannah Richards outstanding at the heart of it, continued to defend well and saw out the game comfortably.

Delighted Saints manager Peter Horne said: "We defended superbly as a team, from Trodd in goal right through to our strikers where Chapman ran her socks off to close defenders down and win the ball back. I could not fault the effort and battling spirit of every player. I was proud of them all."

● Saints' under-tens were pipped to the Winchester & District Girls' Football League title by their Winchester Flyers counterparts who beat them 1-0 on the final day of the season.

Midfielder Lisa Gilham impressed for the Saints, as did goalkeeper Annie Bulkeley.

Winchester, though, took the honours with a goal in the second half.

Saints manager Chrissy Murray said: "Although winning the league would have been amazing, to come runners-up in our first season together is phenomenal. Every single girl in the squad should be very proud of themselves."

Elsewhere in the league, Clanfield finished their campaign off on a high by beating Warsash Wasps on their travels by a single goal.

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
WINCHESTER FLYERS	12	9	2	1	37	29
SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS	12	9	1	2	36	28
PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY	12	7	3	2	38	24
WIDBROOK	12	5	2	5	-1	17
CLANFIELD	12	2	2	8	-32	8
WARSASH WASPS	12	2	1	9	-22	7
WHITELEY WANDERERS	12	2	1	9	-56	7

Saints trials

SOUTHAMPTON Saints G&L first team are looking to recruit senior female football players who are aged 16 and over for the 2012/13 season.

Saints play in the Premier Division of the Southern Region Women's Football League, with ambitions to push for promotion for an immediate return to the South West Combination Women's Football league.

They are holding trials for outfield players who play in all positions, as well as specific trials for goalkeepers.

The player trials will take place on: Thursday, June 28 and Tuesday, July 3 from 6.30-8.30pm at BTC Sports Ground, Stoneham Lane, Southampton.

For more information contact first team manager Adam on 07731 053208.

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Reggie takes Harry's Hampshire place

THE fall and rise of Hampshire's mascot has been completed with the birth of 'Reggie the Royal'.

Reginald Linford Royal replaces Harry the Hawk and makes his debut at bank holiday Monday's opening Clydesdale Bank 40 match against Glamorgan's Welsh Dragons at The Ageas Bowl.

Reggie will be at all home CB40 and Friends Life t20 matches and will compete in the much-loved "Mascot Race" at Friends Life t20 Finals Day.

He will also become the club's Zooters junior membership ambassador.

Reggie said: "It is with great pride that I accept the role of Hampshire Royals mascot, especially as their success in the limited-overs competitions in recent seasons has been beyond most people's wildest dreams. My mane aim is to support the team as they push for success once again in 2012.

"I hope I'll be a roaring success in the new role."

UNVEILING: Reggie the Royal with Hampshire players Danny Briggs, left, and Adam Rouse.

Hampshire fixtures/results 2012

APRIL
12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC – ***Hampshire lost by 33 runs.***
19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC – ***Hampshire won by 2 wickets.***
26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC – ***match drawn.***

MAY
2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC
7 Glamorgan, h, CB40
9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC
16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC
20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40
23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC
27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40
31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40

JUNE
3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40
4 Scotland, h, CB40
6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC
14 Sussex (F), Hove, FLt20
15 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20
19 Middlesex (F), h, FLt20
20 Surrey (F), KIA Oval, FLt20
22 Kent (F), h, FLt20
27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20
29 Essex (F), Chelmsford, FLt20
30 Surrey, h, FLt20

JULY
6 Sussex (F), h, FLt20
8 Essex (F), h, FLt20
11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
15 Durham, h, CB40
17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 quarter-finals
27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

AUGUST
6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 semi-finals/finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER
1 CB40 semi-finals
4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY:
LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FLt20 (Friends Life t20), F (floodlit)

OMENS ARE GOOD AS TERRY IS THROWN IN AT THE DEEP END ...

IT was a case of like father, like son as Sean Terry made his LV County Championship debut last week.

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

Like his dad Paul, the long-serving former Hampshire batsman and manager, Sean was given a tough baptism at short notice after captain Jimmy Adams withdrew for personal reasons on the morning of the game against Leicestershire.

History repeated itself on an overcast morning at The Ageas Bowl. It was a in a home game against Leicestershire – at Northlands Road – that Terry snr made his Championship debut back in June 1978.

"I'd never opened before but was told by Bob Stephenson, the captain at the time, that that's where I was batting 45 minutes before my debut!" he recalls. "I think Gordon Greenidge was injured and no one else wanted to do it."

Terry snr opened the batting with Barry Richards and was out for five and eight as Hampshire lost by an innings and 101 runs.

But he went on to score more than 25,000 runs for Hampshire in all competitions, as well as playing two Tests against the West Indies in 1984.

If his 20-year-old son's Hampshire career continues to follow the pattern of his father's, he will have done very well.

Sean was out to a very good ball from Alex Wyatt when he was dismissed for a duck early on in the rain-ruined game against Leicestershire, before making 12 in this week's match at Northants.

Terry snr admits to some surprise that his son is already opening the batting for Hampshire's first team, having signed a two-year development contract last November on the back of some impressive second XI performances.

Especially as the experienced pair of Michael Carberry and Simon Katich, Hampshire's captain in Adams' absence, have had notable success at the top of the order.

"Sean's been asked to bat there and it's where he wants to bat but I think it's a pretty tough ask," said Terry from his home in Perth,

Recognition at The

HAMPSHIRE'S new stands will be named after two of the county's most charismatic captains next month.

The east and west stands that flank The Ageas Bowl's pavilion will be named after the legendary pair Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, left, and Shane Warne.

The official naming ceremony will coincide with England's first one-day international of the summer against the West Indies, at The Ageas Bowl.

The family of the late Ingleby-Mackenzie, who captained Hampshire to the club's first Championship with legendary flamboyance in 1961, will be present, at a celebratory Eve-of-ODI Lunch.

The event, which is open to the pub-

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST HAMPSHIRE NEWS

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

BAPTISM OF FIRE: Sean Terry.
Picture courtesy of Dave Vokes/LMI Photography

"He's waited 20 years for this and I'm obviously delighted for him. It's all he's ever wanted to do"

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET'S FATHERS AND SONS

Paul Terry (1978-96) & Sean Terry (2012-present)

Tim Tremlett (1976-91) & Chris Tremlett (2000-2009), pictured

'Lofty' Herman (1929-48) & Bob Herman (1972-77)

Stephen Fry (1922 and 1929-31) & Charles Fry (1960)

CB Fry (1909-21) & Stephen Fry (see above)

Septimus Brutton (1904) & Charles Brutton (1921-30)

Alec Bowell (1902-27) & Norman Bowell (1924)

Arthur Hill (1895-1921) & Anthony Hill (1920-30)

Charles (1878) & John Gunner (1906-07)

Edward Barrett (1885) & EIM Barrett (1896-1925)

Edward Ede snr (1861-70) and Edward Ede jnr (1902-06)

Western Australia. "He hasn't really had a lot of cricket and in the circumstances it's a tough place to bat.

"It's tough for all batters over there at the moment after all the rain. There haven't been a lot of big scores flying around.

"And opening is the toughest place to bat. But hopefully he will get through a few overs and get some runs.

"If he comes through this he'll been in a good spot because he prefers batting there.

"He likes to play a few shots and initially I thought he'd start by playing a few one-day games but circumstances have meant that he's starting now, earlier than expected.

"He's probably not done quite enough in terms of the amount of games he's played, but it's an opportunity for him.

"He's got a good background in grade cricket and did pretty well last year over there. He's waited 20 years for this and I'm obviously delighted for him. It's all he's ever wanted to do."

Sean was five when his parents moved to Perth, when his dad was released by Hampshire in 1996.

There he grew up playing for Melville CC, where several of his teammates have played in the past. He also represented Western Australia Under-19s.

But no one has had more influence than his dad.

"I've had a fair bit to do with him, generally we've worked well together," smiles Terry snr, pictured left, who is working for Robin Smith's Masuri Helmets as well as running his academy following his six seasons as Hampshire's manager from 2003-08.

Like his dad, Sean is a talented all-round sportsman.

"Sean played some Aussie Rules, he's into his soccer and he played a bit of rugby at school," continued Terry snr. "But it's been mainly cricket for him from the beginning.

"He's certainly never had to be pushed! He's always been pretty keen, he's been surrounded by it from a young age.

"He's chosen to be England qualified and he's got a great opportunity."

Ageas Bowl for Hants' stand-out names

lic, will include a question-and-answer session with some of the guests and will be compèred by former Hampshire and England spin bowler, Shaun Udal.

Warne, Hampshire's captain from 2004-07, will officially unveil his stand on the day of the ODI.

Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove said: "Naming our new stands is a fantastic way for The Ageas Bowl to acknowledge two legends from Hampshire Cricket's history; one of whom pre-dates the move to the new stadium while the other is symbolic of the first few seasons in West End.

"It is important to emphasise that we consulted our membership and fans to hear their suggestions as to whom they would like to see honoured and I think they have helped choose two very worthy individuals to be honoured by the Club."

"Eve of ODI Lunch" tickets for Friday, June 15 are available now, priced £99 including VAT and are available directly from The Ageas Bowl. Anyone interested in coming should contact David Blundell on 02380 47 56 43 or *david.blundell@ageasbowl.com*.

The event will run from 12.30 until 3pm and will include a drinks reception, lunch and feature film presentation including an exclusive interview with Shane Warne.

AND SCORES AT dailyecho.co.uk

SNOOKER

FOLLOWING Stephen Hendry's retirement from snooker this week, the Sports Pink looks back at the most memorable of the Scot's many major finals.

Masters 1991, beat Mike Hallett 9-8

A 22-year-old Hendry entered the tournament as reigning world champion and having never been beaten in the Masters, so his progress to the final was no surprise. The manner of his victory was another story altogether.

A one-sided first session saw Hallett lead 7-0 as he headed back to his hotel, surely contemplating imminent victory. He advanced to 8-2 and the brink of victory but a dreadful missed pink in the next frame was to prove crucial, as Hendry pinched the frame and relentlessly pressed on to a 9-8 win. It was only the beginning of Hallett's misery as he returned home to find his house had been burgled.

World Championship 1992, beat Jimmy White 18-14

Hendry's first Crucible title also came at White's expense, but the drama of the 1992 final means it will live longer in the memory. Hendry opened with a century but White edged a tight first session and opened up a 10-6 lead by the end of the first evening.

The London left-hander extended that to 12-6 with a 134 and the next four were shared, but Hendry won the last two frames of the afternoon, the last with a superb decisive brown, and the evening session saw him complete a stunning ten-frame winning run, with a century to level at 14-14 and two in succession to seal victory.

World Championship 1994, beat Jimmy White 18-17

Hendry's rivalry with White in World finals defined the first half of the 1990s, and the 'Whirlwind' will have been hurt more by his 1994 defeat than any of his six near misses – five against Hendry.

Having won two successive frames to level at 16-16 with three to play, and then been among the balls in the deciding frame, White missed a black off its spot and had to watch as Hendry made a clinical and nerveless 58 clearance – made all the more impressive as he had played most of the tournament with a fractured bone in his left arm. "He's beginning to annoy me," was White's memorable assessment.

UK Championship 1994, beat Ken Doherty 10-5

Hendry was at his metronomic best as he compiled a world-record seven centuries in the best-of-19 final at the Preston Guildhall. Having lost the opening frame, he responded with breaks of 112, 114 and 130, before further runs of 109, 106 and 110 put him 6-3 ahead.

Doherty was playing his part, with two of his frame wins to that point coming via breaks in the 70s, and he closed to 6-5 before Hendry pulled clear with the help of a 106 in frame 13. He added a 57 in the next for effect before getting over the winning line.

Masters 1998, lost 10-9 to Mark Williams

Hendry was edged out in the first major final to be decided on a final-frame re-spotted black since 1975 as Williams produced a sensational comeback from 9-6 down. As the match time ticked beyond five hours, the Welshman trailed 51-30 but snookered Hendry on the yellow – only for the Scot to pot the ball on his second escape attempt and add the green.

Williams, then aged 22, cleared from brown to black to set up a re-spot and narrowly missed a double with his first attempt. Hendry also jawed the black and, after a further attempt each, Williams missed a long pot and left the ball over the middle pocket. Hendry could not capitalise, though, and his opponent held his nerve to sink the ball in the green pocket.

Local Cricket Spotlight

Southern Electric PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

Parley set stall out for SEPL cricket

DORSET League powerhouses Parley have set their sights on stepping into the Southern Premier League.

Chairman Graham Stickland revealed their aim ahead of Sunday's showpiece friendly against a star-studded Old England XI at Parley Sports Club (2pm).

Captained by John Lever, who played 21 Tests for England, the invitation team also includes Wayne Larkins, Martin Bicknell, Richard Ellison, Paul Jarvis and Clive Radley.

Parley, Dorset Premier champions in 2009 and 2010, are one of the county's most progressive clubs and are keen to stage SPL cricket at Dean Park.

Chairman Stickland said: "I am very excited about our game with an Old England XI and hope to see as many members and visitors as possible at Parley.

"It is a fitting way to showcase our club and all that we have achieved over the past five years. I am especially proud of the 'one-club' feel that we have worked so hard to build. We are able to develop cricketers from the start of their careers, from under-nines through to becoming first XI players. In my view, this is something we do better than any other club in Dorset.

"More than half the side playing against the Old England XI have developed in this way and that is why gaining entry to the Southern Premier League is such a central part of our strategy. A club with our infrastructure, management strength and playing resources would be an asset to any Premier League. I feel strongly that it is time the ECB addressed the lack of a clear route to their Premier League structure for ambitious clubs who want to keep progressing.

"It is not just the range of cricket experience we offer that people like about Parley. They enjoy the friendly, competitive and supportive culture that we have built and the fact the club is well organised and managed and keen to keep progressing."

Parley (from): Embalagama, Naik, Collins, Stickland, Jacques, Nippard, Thomson, Price, Blackley, Summerson, Thomas, Gunn.
Old England XI (from): John Lever, Wayne Larkins, Martin Bicknell, Alan Wells, Clive Radley, Paul Jarvis, Richard Ellison, Min Patel, Jon Hardy, Roger Tolchard, Raj Maru, Joey Benjamin.

WATER TORTURE

WET, WET, WET: The scene at Brockenhurst CC's ground, in the shadow of the Balmer Lawn Hotel, yesterday.

Photograph by: Tony Wharton

THE wettest April in 100 years, culminating in waterlogged grounds across the region, has left the ECB Southern Electric Premier and Hampshire League bracing themselves for widespread postponements this weekend.

The two major recreational competitions are due to start their respective programmes today, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY***.

But there's every likelihood the opening day fixture list being near enough totally washed out for the first time since 1994.

"Everywhere you look, fields are flooded and cricket grounds haven't escaped," said Premier League chairman Paul Thompson.

"It's been virtually impossible for any groundsman to do any preparatory work for weeks on end now."

South Coast Panel umpires were working overtime yesterday afternoon inspecting grounds – and got very wet feet in the bargain!

Provided there was no fresh rain overnight, there was some hope of play on six Premier League grounds, with Bournemouth (v Havant), and the Hampshire Academy (v South Wilts) the only remaining Division 1 games.

All Division 2 matches were expected to be called off, with Burridge seemingly unlikely to host any cricket for the foreseeable future.

The only remaining SPL3 games were at Gosport Borough, Havant and Totton & Eling.

Even allowing for mass postponements, there is no current provision for cancelled games to be rescheduled, although the Southern Electric Premier League may decide to follow the example of the West of England PL and replay games in early September.

Ventnor out to avoid title hangover

CHAMPS: Ventnor with the SEPL Division 2 trophy at Newclose last season.

AFTER cruising to the Division 2 championship last season – the sixth time since 2004, incidentally – Ventnor are anxious to avoid a repeat of their last venture into top flight ECB Southern Electric Premier League cricket.

The Islanders have experienced a yo-yo life recently, with a long cherished 2009 promotion to the top flight dulled by instant relegation.

Promoted again as Division 2 champions in 2011, Ventnor look far better equipped this time around, with former Lincolnshire seam bowler Elliott Wilson providing a cutting edge to the attack and partnering a fit-again Mark Holmes.

Chris Ridley's switch from Bournemouth will provide the them with top order batting strength and safe hands behind the stumps.

Former Academy leg-spin all-rounder Jamie Miller should be a similar asset in a potentially stronger all-round Ventnor team, which has MCC YC's new boy Adam Hose travelling down from Lord's each week.

Ventnor's opening competitive games have both been called off this weekend.

Ian Hilsum's side were due to host Bashley (Rydal) at Newclose today and visit Alton in the ECB Kingfisher Cup tomorrow, but both games have been called off due to waterlogged pitches.

SEPL PREVIEWS APPEAR EVERY FRIDAY IN THE *DAILY ECHO*

Local Cricket Spotlight

Thane sets stall out for title

AFTER leading his side to second place in Southern Electric Premier League Division Two for the past two seasons, Hook and Newnham Basics captain Ben Thane is hoping to go one better in 2012, ***writes JOHN BOYMAN***.

Hook were due to get their season started with a home game against Paultons today – and Thane has his sights set on a successful campaign.

"We are hoping to go one better and win the league this year," he said. "We need individuals to stand up like they did last year, but if everyone does that we should do pretty well.

"We have got good strength in depth and I am not exactly sure who will be in the team on a regular basis, which is a good thing. I am very happy with the players at my disposal and hopefully we will do well."

Hook have made three big additions over the winter. Batsman Adam Robinson and bowler Neil Robinson have been brought in from Oakley, while former Fareham & Crofton all-rounder Kevin Light is another new addition.

However, they will have to do without all-rounders Chad Ratnayake and Jordan Hobday.

Ratnayake has returned to Sri Lanka, while Hobday, who missed last season with a knee injury, has joined Bashley (Rydal) – but Thane remains confident.

"We are just as strong as we were last year," he added. "We might miss Chad as an all-rounder, but he did not play every game so as long as some of the other lads step up we should be fine.

"We were a seamer shy last year but the other bowlers made up for that.

"Shane Brewer was our top wicket taker and hopefully he will have another good season, while young Ben Peat and Alex Cates were in the front running to open the bowling with him this weekend."

It's been a frustrating couple of weeks for Hook, with the rain wiping out both of their warm-up games, and Thane is itching to get started.

"We have not played at all outdoors, but everyone is looking forward to it though."

● Hook's overall position in the Hampshire pyramid has been strengthened by the elevation of their successful second team into Hampshire League County Division 1.

They were due to open their programme at Fareham & Crofton today, but lke most grounds Bath Lane is waterlogged.

ADDITION: Kevin Light.

Ervine is kept waiting

CRAIG Ervine's arrival at Lymington was announced a month ago – but so bad has the weather been the Zimbabwe all-rounder has barely had a chance to meet any of his teammates, let alone see what the Sports Ground even looks like!

He was looking forward to an ECB Southern Electric Premier League debut against Totton & Eling today, but the match has predictably been called off.

Ervine, pictured, who has made 28 international appearances for

Zimbabwe, met a few of his to-be colleagues at Lymington's pre-season dinner – but hasn't seen them since!

Lymington have had no pre-season friendlies and plan a delayed start to the season against Bournemouth next week.

A left-hand top order batsman, Ervine will beef-up Lymington's batting no end, alongside Glyn Treagus, who was in good pre-season touch with Dorset before the rains came.

Darren Cowley is the new captain and will remain a considerable force, with his strong left-hand hitting complementing tidy left-arm spin bowling. Wicketkeeper Rob Lammiman has left, leaving Sparsholt rookie Ed Ellis behind the stumps.

THE TEAM TO BEAT

AS ALWAYS, Havant will be the team to beat in the ECB Southern Electric Premier League.

They've lifted the championship four times in the past five seasons and are favourites again this season, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY***.

Scheduled to begin their title defence against Bournemouth in the opening 50-over pennant match at Chapel Gate today (1pm), Havant will have all of last season's championship winning side on duty again.

Spin all-rounder Chris Morgan will miss some of the early matches due to his Durham University studies and will probably arrive back at The Park when former Hampshire Academy batsman Chris Stone arrives from Cardiff.

Stone, who is joined by fellow newcomer Ben Robins, is playing the first half of the season for Usk in the ECB South Wales Premier League, but will switch to Havant once his first year Cardiff University studies are complete.

So, Havant's tried, tested and well oiled squad will be on duty again, with Peter Hopson (631), Stuart Ransley (456) and Ben Walker (689) eager to match last season's run scoring feats.

Ben Robins, with Andover last season, has moved into the area and will strengthen the seam bowling department which, while the wet conditions prevail, will be tailor-made for Jez Ord.

But spin will again provide a major part of Havant's weaponry, with Hindley and Ransley once again expected to be prominent.

Havant did, at least, get in some very early season middle practice, but that must seem at eternity away now!

Skipper Hindley, who chipped in with 299 runs and 33 wickets last season, spent a week with the Club Cricket Conference in Oman in March.

That too must feel like a distant memory: searing, unrelenting 40 degrees Celsius heat, rock hard outfields ... a far cry from Chapel Gate today, if the match is played!

SILVERWARE: Havant at the end of the 2011 season.

Sibling rivalry ...

SIMON Ridley and younger brother Chris, right, celebrate after Bournemouth's ECB Cockspur twenty20 Cup triumph under the Sky Sports television cameras at Derby in 2009.

The pair left Bournemouth this winter – they had been there since colts – and, but for the weather and a totally waterlogged Newclose ground, would have been in opposing sides today.

All-rounder Simon Ridley had joined Bashley (Rydal), while Chris has taken over the wicketkeeping gauntlets at Ventnor.

Rain threat to cup ties

FOUR Southern Electric Premier League sides are set to go head-to-head in the newly sponsored ECB Kingfisher Cup first round – provided the weather holds tomorrow.

As their Ripsley Park ground is waterlogged, Liphook & Ripsley have switched their tie against Havant to Havant Park, 1pm. Totton & Eling are scheduled to face up against South Wilts at Southern Gardens.

Bashley (Rydal) and Bournemouth have away-days – Bash at Corsham, and Bournemouth against Warminster.

Alton's tie with Ventnor is rescheduled for the Jubilee Field on Sunday week, May 13.

Two of tomorrow's remaining Southern Electric t20 Cup matches are off – at Sarisbury Athletic and United Services – but Hampshire Academy's clash with Portsmouth at the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground (2pm) should go ahead.

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Fawley Royal British Legion, Private Hall,
Exbury Road, 6pm & 7.45pm.
Debbie 07865 994874

Chandlers Ford,
Chandlers Ford Community Centre,
Hursley Rd, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Liz 02380 788837

Eastleigh AM & PM,
The Cranbury Centre, Cranbury Road,
9.15 & 11.15am or 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Lorraine 07941 164776

Regents Park,
Regents Park Community College, King
Edwards Avenue, 5.30pm & 7.30pm.
Jo 02380 900899

New Consultant & New Time from 14th May,
Woolston,
St Patricks Parish Centre, Porchester Road,
7.30pm. Vanessa 07746 533898

Tuesday's

Bishops Waltham,
United Free Church, Upper Basingwell
Street, 7.30pm.
Mel 01489 890250

Bitterne,
Catholic Church Hall, Commercial
Street, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Jo 07733 235039

Botley AM,
Botley Centre, High Street, Botley,
9.15 & 11.00am.
Claire 02380 407551

Boyatt Wood,
Crestwood College, Shakespeare Road,
5.15 & 7.15pm.
Jodie 07904 104262

Fair Oak,
Fair Oak Village Hall,
Shorts Road, 7pm.
Nicola 02380 696188

Freemantle,
Freemantle CE Community Academy,
Mansion Road, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Claire 07786 014101

Hedge End,
St Johns Church, Underhill Centre,
St Johns Road, 5.15 & 7pm.
Claire 02380 407551

Lordswood,
Lordswood Community Centre,
Sandpiper Road, 6.30pm.
Angie 02380 777063

Redbridge,
All Saints Church Hall,
Sedbergh Road, 7pm.
Mags 07824 611832

Shirley AM,
Salvation Army Hall, Victor
Street, 9.30 & 11.30am.
Jo 02380 900899

Totton AM & PM,
Totton Christian Centre,
9 Ringwood Road,
9.30 & 11.30am or 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Liz 02380 788837

West End,
Hilldene Community Centre,
High Street, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Jo 07825 350244

Woodley,
Woodley Village Hall, School Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Charlotte 07810 643419

Wednesday's

Bitterne Park AM & PM,
United Reformed Church, Cobden Ave,
Bitterne Park, 9.15am & 6pm.
Siobhan 07956 219585

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Chandlers Ford,
Velmore Community Centre, Falkland Road,
5.15pm & 7.15pm.
Sarah 07734 713135

Hythe,
St John's Hall, New Road, Hythe,
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Karen 02380 862990

Up to & including the 23rd May,
Fleming Park, Pavillion on the Park,
Kingfisher Road, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Sarah 07734 713135

Hamble,
Hamble Sport's Complex, Main Hall,
Satchell Lane, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Hayley 07772 351717

Hounsdown,
Hounsdown School, Jacobs Gutter
Lane, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Emilie 07817 968028

Lordshill,
Lordshill Church, Lordshill District
Centre, 5.15 & 7.00pm.
Lynn 07971 354179

New Consultant from 16th May,
Peartree Green AM,
Peartree Church Hall, Peartree Road, 9.30am.
Hayley 07545 772258

Sholing,
St Monica Junior School, St Monica
Road, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Heather 01489 784508

Thornhill Park,
Thornhill Baptist Church, Thornhill Park
Road, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Anji 02380 472737

Upper Shirley,
Isaac Watts Church, Winchester Road/
Luccombe Road, 7.30pm.
Sue 07841 338893

Thursday's

Bitterne AM,
Catholic Church Hall, Commercial
Street, 9.15 & 11.15am.
Jo 07733 235039

Calmore,
Calmore Community Centre, Calmore
Drive, Totton, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Emilie 07817 968028

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Velmore Community Centre,
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Sarah 07734 713135

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Kay 07833 746532

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Sarah 07734 713135

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4 0- **TOP DESIGN (312)** Miss K George 4 9 10 ..... **T McLaughlin 9**
5 60 **SMARTY TIME (29)** J Bridger 5 9 5 ..... **S Levey (3) 7**
6 5-2 **CAPTAIN KENDALL (IRE) (16)** P Evans 3 9 0 ..... **M Cosham (5) 6**
7 22520- **FORT BASTION (IRE) (217)** R Hannon 3 9 0 ..... **R Hughes 10**
8 00- **INFINITE JEST (179)** J Hills 3 9 0 ..... **S Sanders 2**
9 **OCEANA DREAMER (IRE)** A Balding 3 9 0 ..... **L Keniry 3**
10 **ZHIGGY'S STARDUST** H Candy 3 9 0 ..... **D Sweeney 8**

BETTING: 4-11 Fort Bastion, 8-1 Oceana Dreamer, Zhiggy's Stardust, 14-1 Captain Kendall, 16-1 Choice Words, 20-1 Infinite Jest, 33-1 Temple Road, 50-1 Petrarchan, Smarty Time, 66-1 Top Design.

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3 22213/ **MEZZANISI (IRE) (J64)** P Bowen 7 9 5 ..... **Luke Morris 6**
4 03226/ **ENFANT DE LUNE (FR) (J15)** D Pipe 8 9 2 ..... **S Sanders 4**
5 -61100 **STORM HAWK (IRE) (18) (D)** Pat Eddery 5 9 0 ..... **K Fox (3) 11**
6 03/41- **ALBERT BRIDGE (233)** R Beckett 4 8 12 ..... **H Bentley (3) 9**
7 16310- **ROCKFELLA (234)** D Coakley 6 8 12 ..... **T O'Shea 1**
8 251/3- **HAWRIDGE STAR (IRE) (360) (D)** W Kittow 10 8 10 ..... **L Keniry 2**
9 312-66 **O MA LAD (IRE) (16)** S Kirk 4 8 7 ..... **Sophie Doyle (3) 5**
10 32600/ **PRINCELY HERO (IRE) (J16)** C Gordon 8 8 5 ..... **S Hitchcott 3**
11 66365- **MATTORAL (J9)** C Gordon 4 8 4 ..... **L Jones 10**

BETTING: 11-4 Royal Peculiar, 9-2 Enfant De Lune, 5-1 Albert Bridge, 8-1 Mattoral, 10-1 Samsons Son, Hawridge Star, 12-1 Mezzanisi, 14-1 Princely Hero, O Ma Lad, 16-1 others.

2.55 BETFRED 'THE BONUS KING' FILLIES' CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS 3). £11,500 added 2YO only 5f Penalty Value £7,439.

1 0113 **DREAMY CIARA (18) (D)** P Evans 8 12 ..... **M Cosham (5) 2**
2 21 **EFFIE B (15) (D)** M Channon 8 12 ..... **C Catlin 6**
3 1 **JUDY IN DISGUISE (31) (D)** W G M Turner 8 12 ..... **R While (7) 7**
4 1 **TASSEL (17) (D)** R Hannon 8 12 ..... **R Hughes 8**
5 1 **ALL ON RED (IRE) (10) (D)** T B Coles 8 9 ..... **S Donohoe 5**
6 04 **CHERRYRED GIRL (IRE) (34)** J S Moore 8 9 ..... **L Keniry 1**
7 6 **EDGED OUT (16)** B Palling 8 9 ..... **Luke Morris 4**
8 **RIO'S PEARL** R Beckett 8 6 ..... **H Bentley (3) 3**

BETTING: 10-11 Tassel, 9-2 Effie B, 6-1 Rio's Pearl, Judy In Disguise, 12-1 Dreamy Ciara, 14-1 All On Red, 50-1 Edged Out, 100-1 Cherryred Girl.

3.35 BETFRED GOALS GALORE HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO only 1m 2f Penalty Value £5,175.

1 4500-4 **JACK WHO'S HE (IRE) (13)** P Evans 9 7 ..... **M Cosham (5) 7**
2 41-0 **HANDSOME MAN (IRE) (17)** S Bin Suroor 9 2 ..... **T Durcan 2**
3 503-1 **EXPENSE CLAIM (IRE) (25)** A Balding 9 2 ..... **L Keniry 4**
4 2200-3 **PERFECT DELIGHT (13)** C Cox 9 2 ..... **John Fahy 5**
5 321- **REBEL SONG (IRE) (176)** M Al Zarooni 9 1 ..... **R Hughes 3**
6 531-66 **HOLLY MARTINS (11)** H Adielsson 8 11 ..... **Nicole Nordblad (7) 1**
7 100-12 **SHEILA'S BUDDY (25) (D)** J S Moore 8 9 ..... **T O'Shea 8**
8 051-32 **ISLAND MELODY (IRE) (83)** J S Moore 8 8 ..... **Luke Morris 9**
9 006- **CADES REEF (IRE) (240)** A Balding 8 8 ..... **S Pearce (3) 6**

BETTING: 3-1 Rebel Song, 9-2 Handsome Man, 6-1 Expense Claim, Sheila's Buddy, 7-1 Perfect Delight, 8-1 Island Melody, 10-1 Jack Who's He, Cades Reef, 16-1 Holly Martins.

4.10 BETFRED 'DOUBLE DELIGHT' E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £6,500 added 3YO only 1m 4f Penalty Value £4,205.

1 **HENDRY TRIGGER** J Bradley 9 3 ..... **R Kennemore 7**
2 32 **KUDOZ (26)** C Cox 9 3 ..... **John Fahy 10**
3 0- **LORD NANDI (169)** Sir H Cecil 9 3 ..... **G Baker 11**
4 44- **MYSTERIOUS MAN (IRE) (208) (BF)** A Balding 9 3 ..... **L Keniry 8**
5 **NEW YOUMZAIN (FR)** M Channon 9 3 ..... **S Hitchcott 9**
6 2 **RIGHT TO RULE (IRE) (8)** W Haggas 9 3 ..... **L Jones 12**
7 6 **SIGN MANUAL (15)** M Bell 9 3 ..... **Luke Morris 1**
8 3 **SYNCHRONICITY (IRE) (15)** R Hannon 9 3 ..... **R Hughes 4**
9 00 **BRAVE KISS (20)** M Gillard 8 12 ..... **D Sweeney 5**
10 5 **CAPHENE (16)** J Dunlop 8 12 ..... **T Durcan 3**
11 36- **CORSETRY (USA) (225)** Sir H Cecil 8 12 ..... **I Mongan 6**
12 0- **ESTIMATE (IRE) (243)** Sir M Stoute 8 12 ..... **P Dobbs 2**

BETTING: 4-1 Synchronicity, 9-2 Caphene, 11-2 Right To Rule, 6-1 Kudoz, 7-1 Corsetry, Mysterious Man, 10-1 Estimate, New Youmzain, 14-1 others.

4.45 BETFRED MOBILE CASINO HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £13,000 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £8,410.

1 22100- **APOSTLE (IRE) (262)** M Bell 9 7 ..... **Luke Morris 8**
2 144- **THREE AM TOUR (IRE) (193) (D)** R Hannon 9 6 ..... **R Hughes 4**
3 0010- **LUNAR DEITY (263)** Eve J-Houghton 9 4 ..... **John Fahy 6**
4 1346-0 **SHAMROCKED (IRE) (29) (CD)** M Channon 9 2 ..... **S Hitchcott 1**
5 21-1 **HAAF A SIXPENCE (22) (D)** R Beckett 9 1 ..... **H Bentley (3) 7**
6 26150- **ALICE'S DANCER (IRE) (191)** W Muir 9 1 ..... **S Levey (3) 5**
7 6614-3 **GABRIAL'S GIFT (IRE) (36) (BF)** D M Simcock 8 13 ..... **C Catlin 3**
8 036-5 **EMPEROR VESPASIAN (16)** A Balding 8 10 ..... **L Keniry 2**

BETTING: 5-2 Gabrial's Gift, 3-1 Three Am Tour, 4-1 Haaf A Sixpence, 7-1 Emperor Vespasian, 8-1 Apostle, 10-1 Alice's Dancer, 14-1 Lunar Deity, 25-1 Shamrocked.

5.20 BETFRED BONUS KING BINGO LADY RIDERS' HANDICAP (AMATEURS) (CLASS 6). £3,200 added 4YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £1,996.

1 02046- **THE NAME IS FRANK (170) (C)** M Gillard 7 10 7 ..... **Miss E J Jones 5**
2 06-605 **ARCTIC MIRAGE (3)** M Blanshard 4 10 3 ..... **Miss H Moore (5) 11**
3 114256 **PROHIBITION (IRE) (10)** A J Lidderdale 6 10 3 ..... **Miss K Margarson (7) 8**
4 4-6050 **SCRIBE (IRE) (10)** P Evans 4 10 2 ..... **Mrs E Evans 9**
5 -30060 **RAPID WATER (15) (C)** Pat Eddery 6 10 2 ..... **Miss R King (3) 7**
6 062232 **RESPLENDENT ALPHA (10)** A J Lidderdale 8 10 0 ..... **Miss Z Lilly 3**
7 020460 **QUERIDO (GER) (6)** P Butler 8 9 12 ..... **Miss M Bryant (5) 4**
8 0060-0 **GREEN PEARL (IRE) (109)** R Beckett 4 9 10 ..... **Miss Lindsey Metcalfe (7) 1**
9 50-043 **SILVEE (3)** J Bridger 5 9 10 ..... **Miss S Brotherton 2**
10 600600 **JUSTCALLMEHANDSOME (10) (D)** D F Davis 10 9 7 ..... **Miss C Boxall (5) 6**
11 -00062 **INQUISITRESS (3)** J Bridger 8 9 7 ..... **Miss N Dumelow (5) 10**

BETTING: 11-4 Resplendent Alpha, 4-1 Silvee, 9-2 Inquisitress, 7-1 Prohibition, 10-1 Arctic Mirage, 12-1 The Name Is Frank, 14-1 Scribe, 16-1 Rapid Water, Justcallmehandsome, Querido, 25-1 Green Pearl.

SELECTIONS

GOWRAN: 2.30 Forty Foot Tom, 3.00 Derrychrin, 3.30 Chrysanthemum, 4.05 Wonderful, 4.40 Gunner Lindley, 5.15 Queenscliff, 5.45 Clash Of Kings
HAMILTON: 2.15 Henry Morgan, 2.45 Mr Khan, 3.25 Vocational, 4.00 Emily Carr, 4.35 Georgebernardshaw, 5.10 Getabuzz, 5.45 Sally's Swansong.
NEWMARKET: 2.05 Hurricane Higgins, 2.35 Khawlah, 3.15 MAYBE (NAP), 3.50 Doc Hay, 4.25 Smoothtalkinrascal, 5.00 Red Hand, 5.35 Samba King.
SALISBURY: 1.50 Captain Kendall, 2.20 Royal Peculiar, 2.55 Tassel, 3.35 Expense Claim, 4.10 Kudoz, 4.45 Gabrial's Gift, 5.20 Resplendent Alpha.
SLIGO: 2.40 Caballo De Marcus, 3.10 Sorted, 3.40 Tango Banbou, 4.15 Dr Machini, 4.50 Awkward Moment, 5.25 Special Raffle, 5.55 Sizing Tennessee.
DOUBLE: Maybe and Khawlah.

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